X

CLAMP

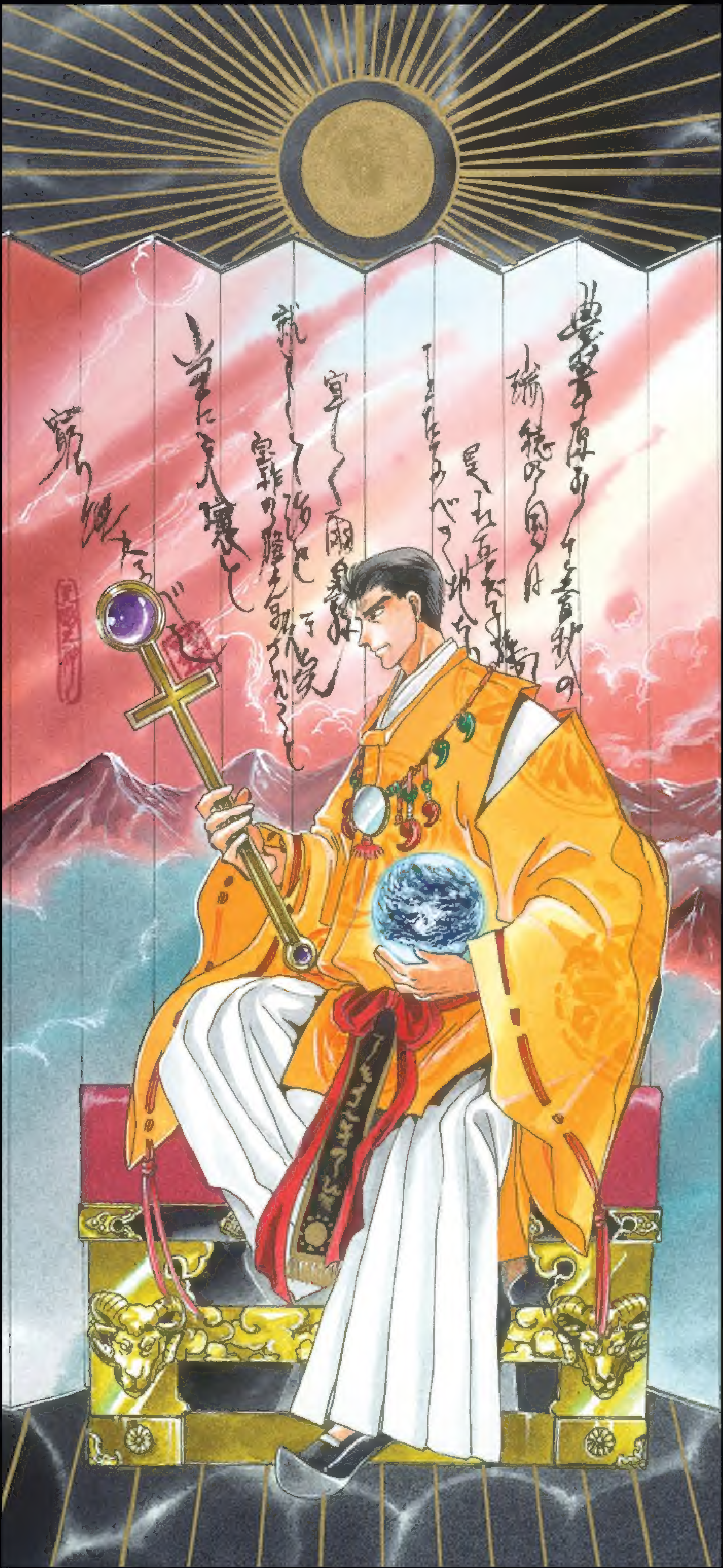
II 3·IN·1

X

VOLUME 2, PART 1

THE SEVEN LUMINARIES II

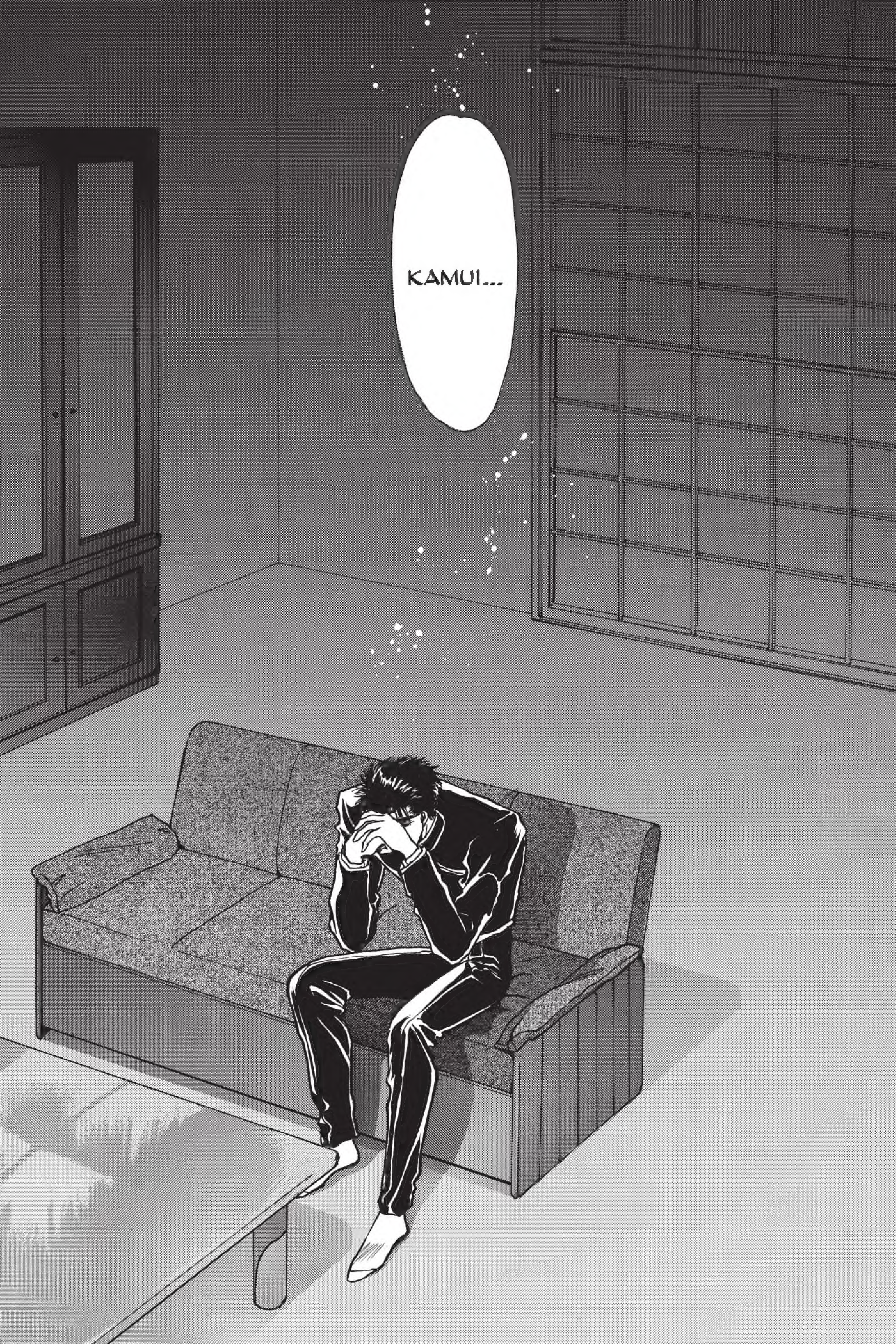
X

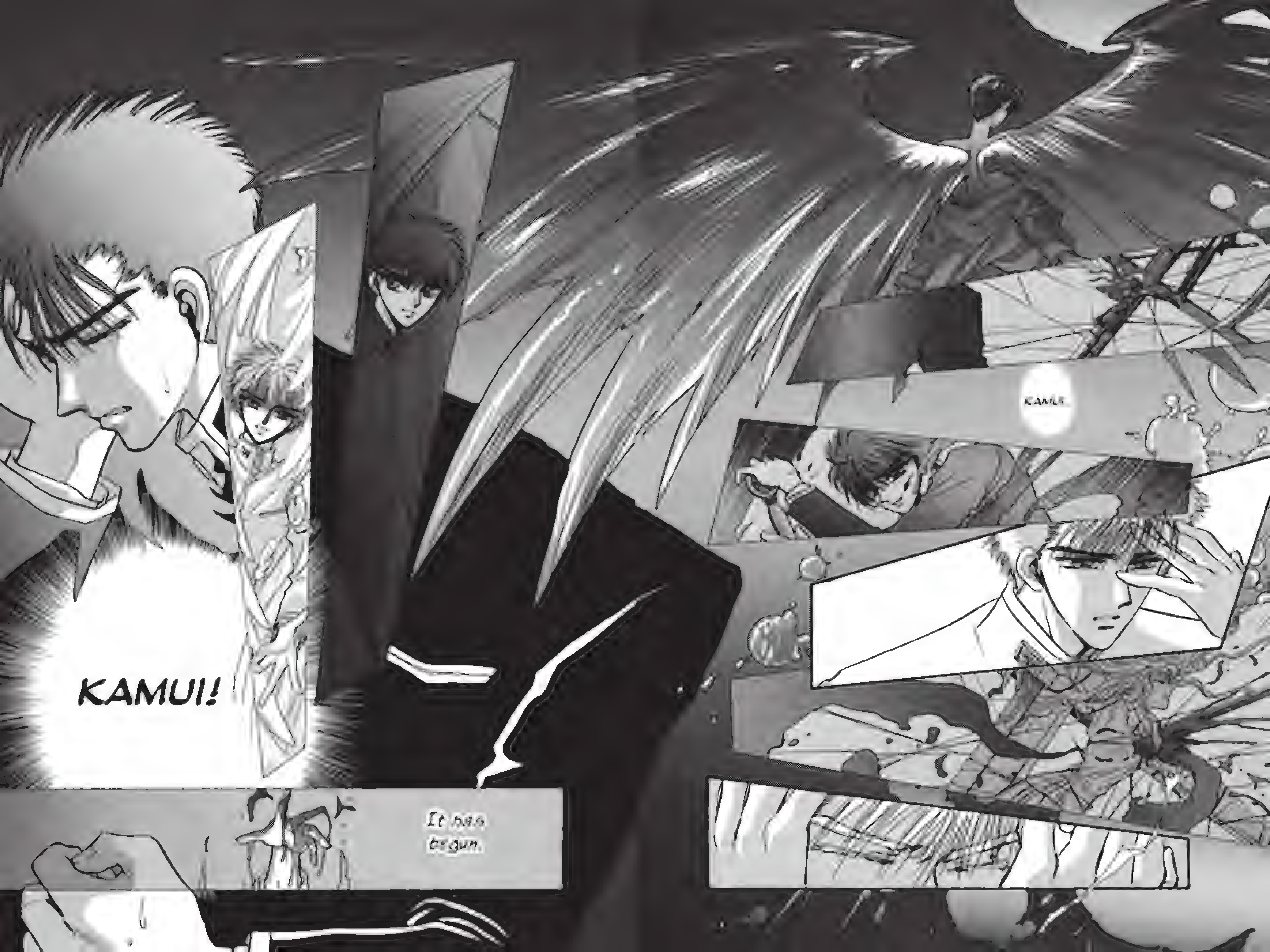


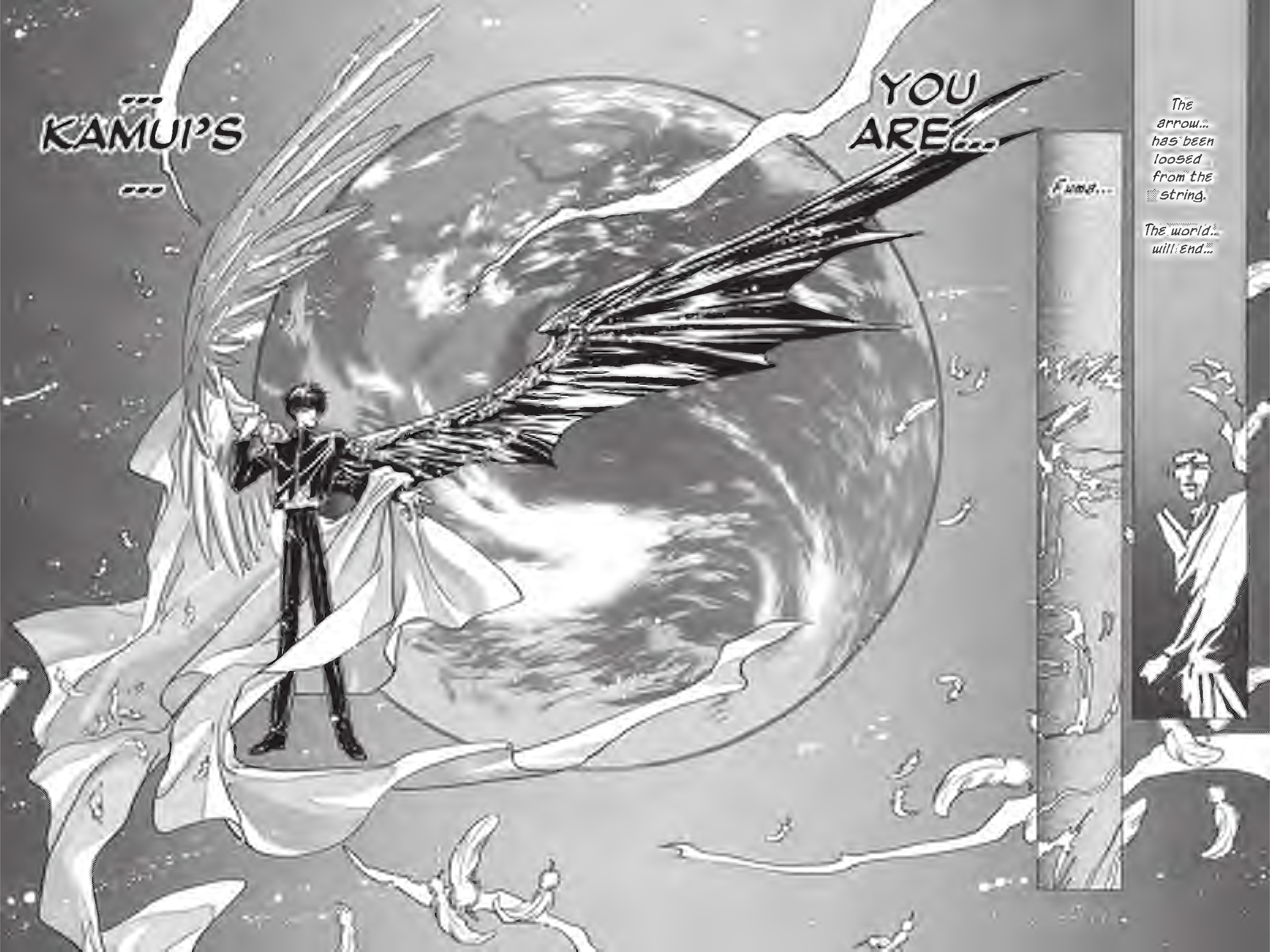
4

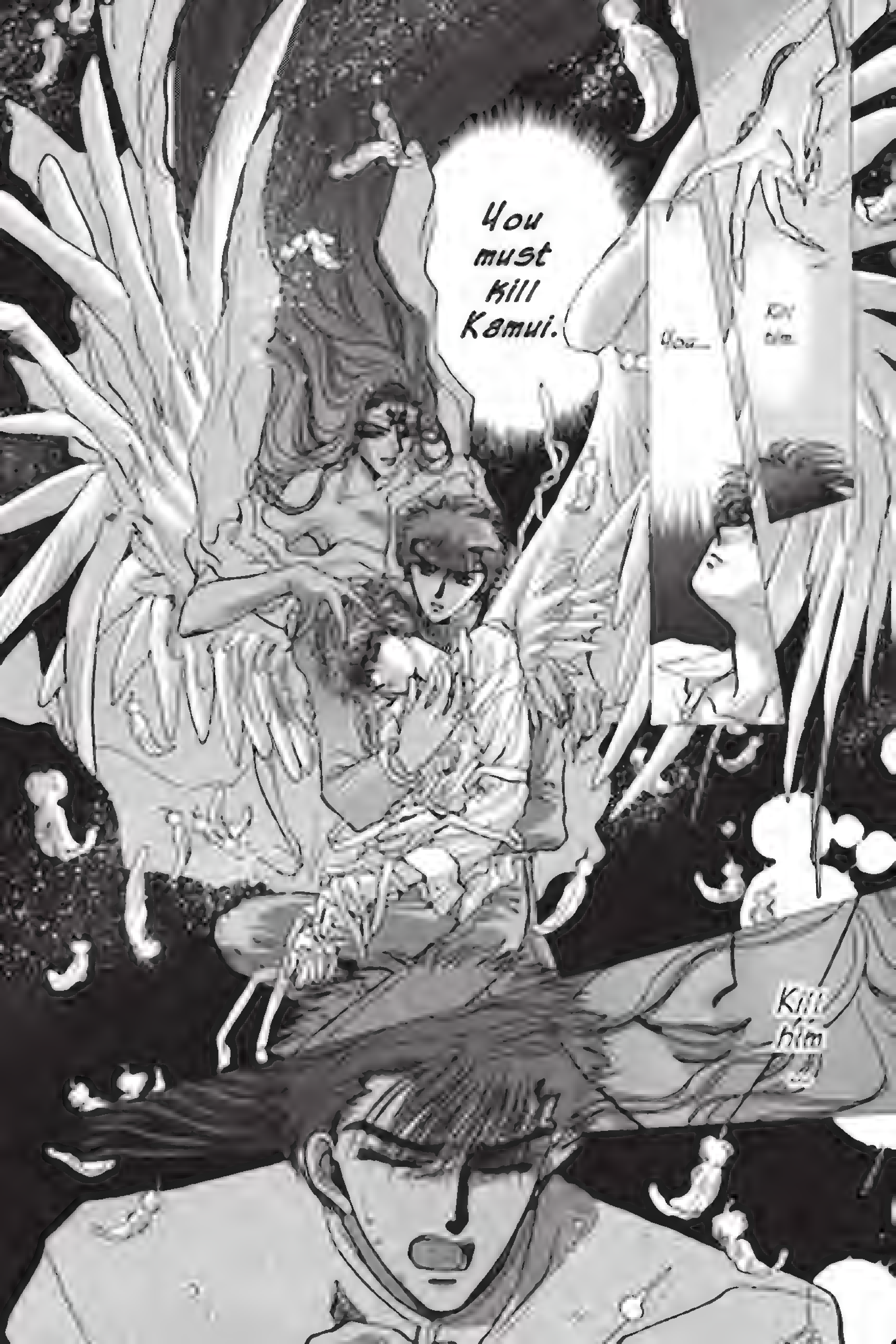
THE EMPEROR

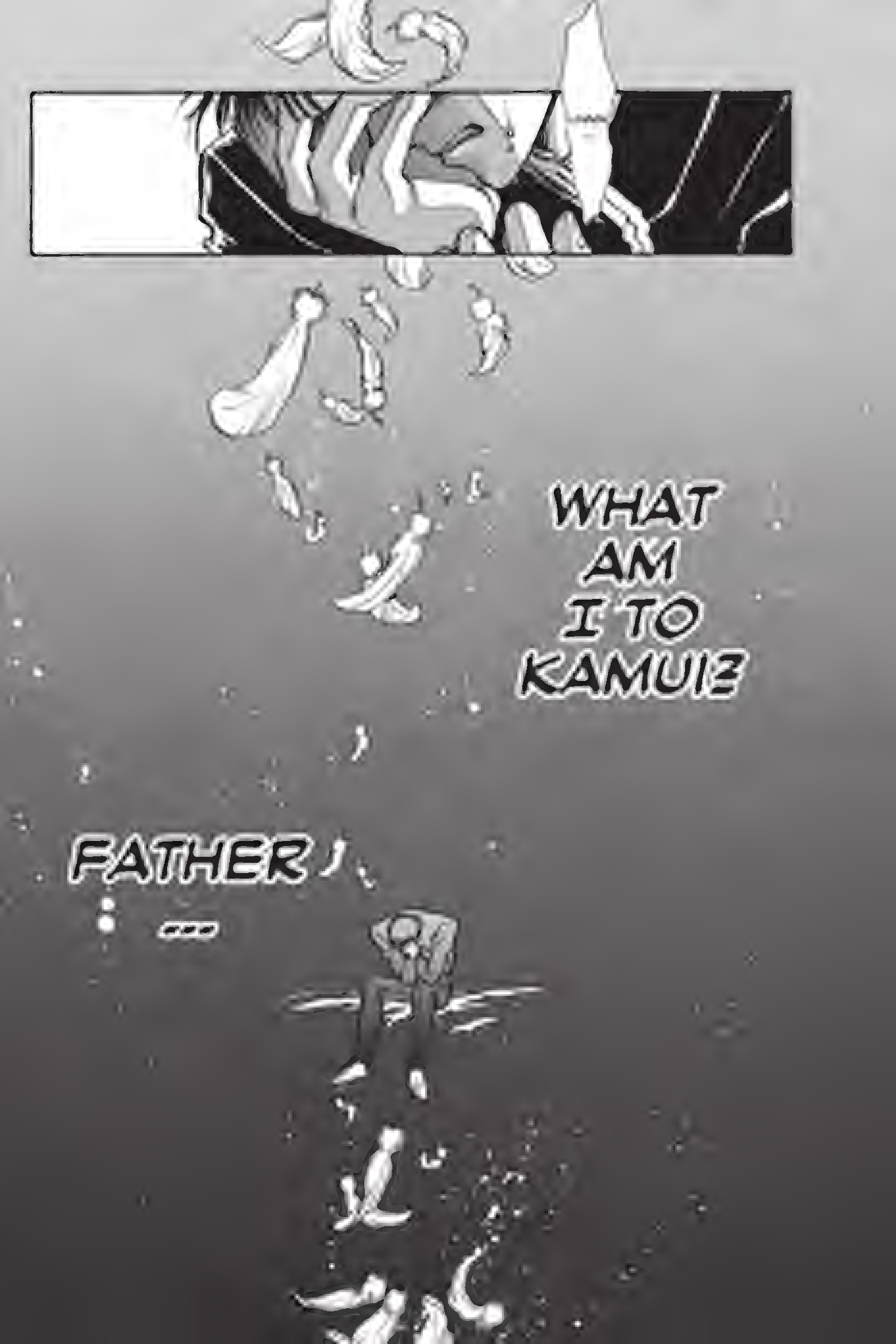
ח

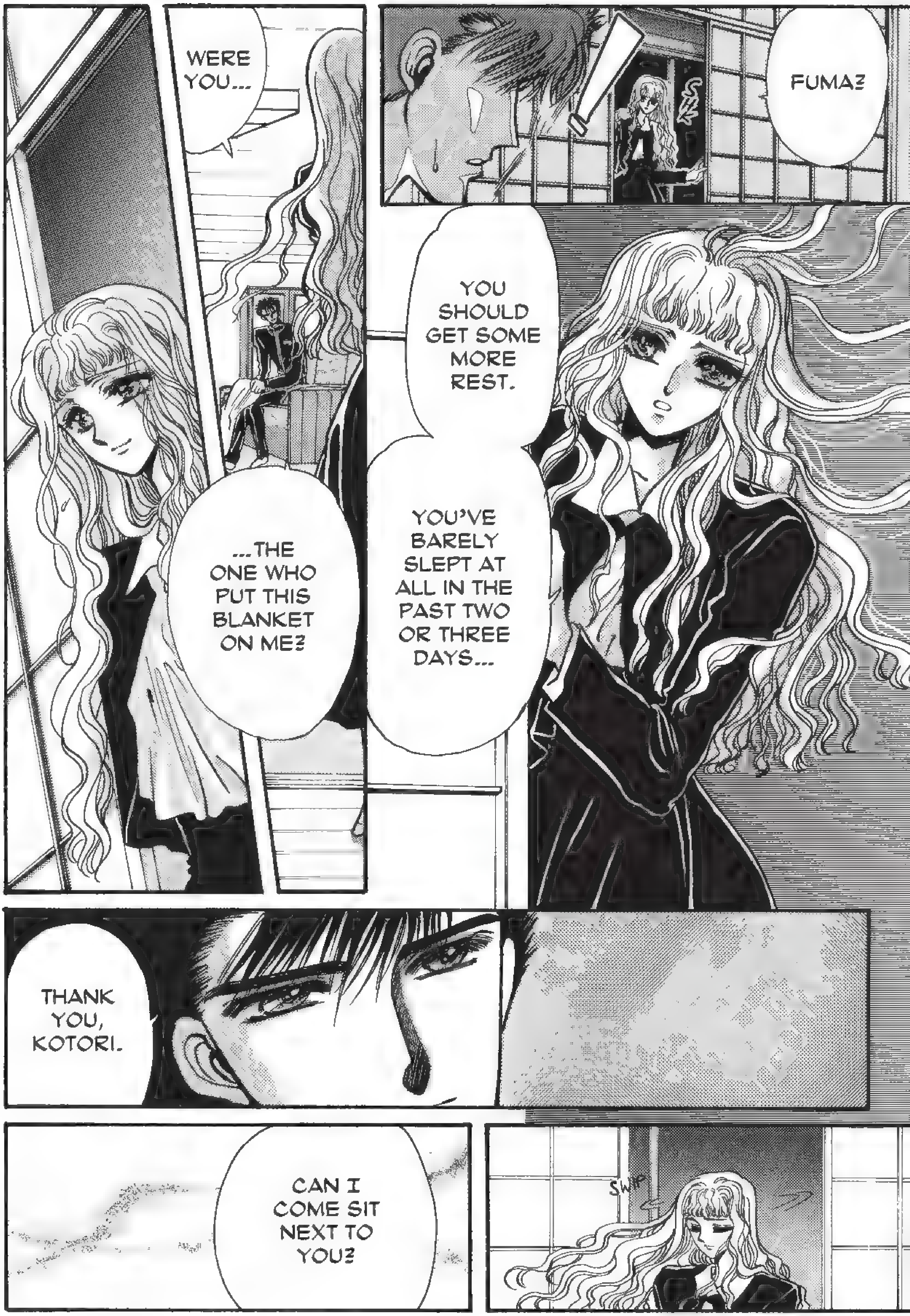

KAMUI...

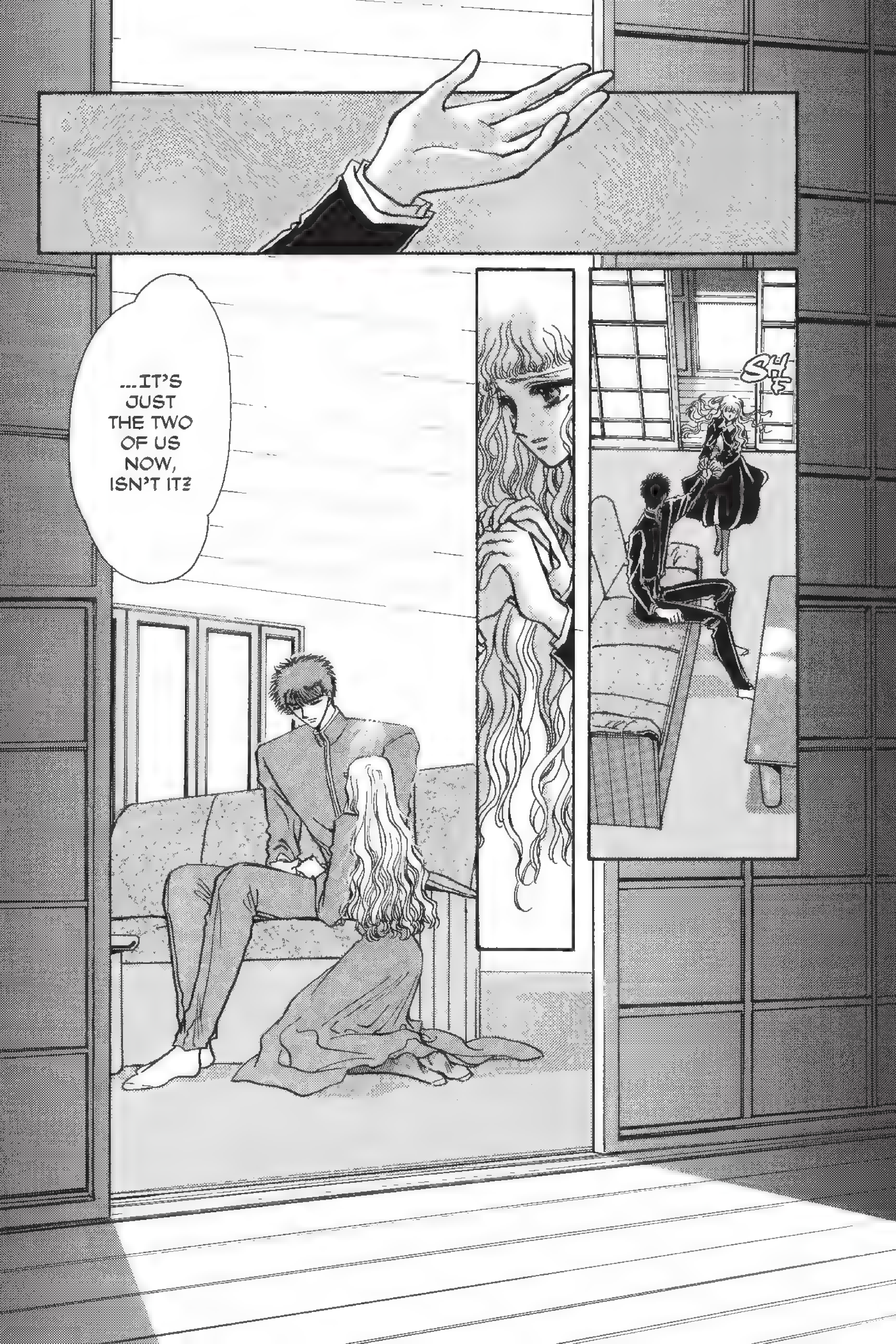

KAMUI.
KAMUI!
It has begun.

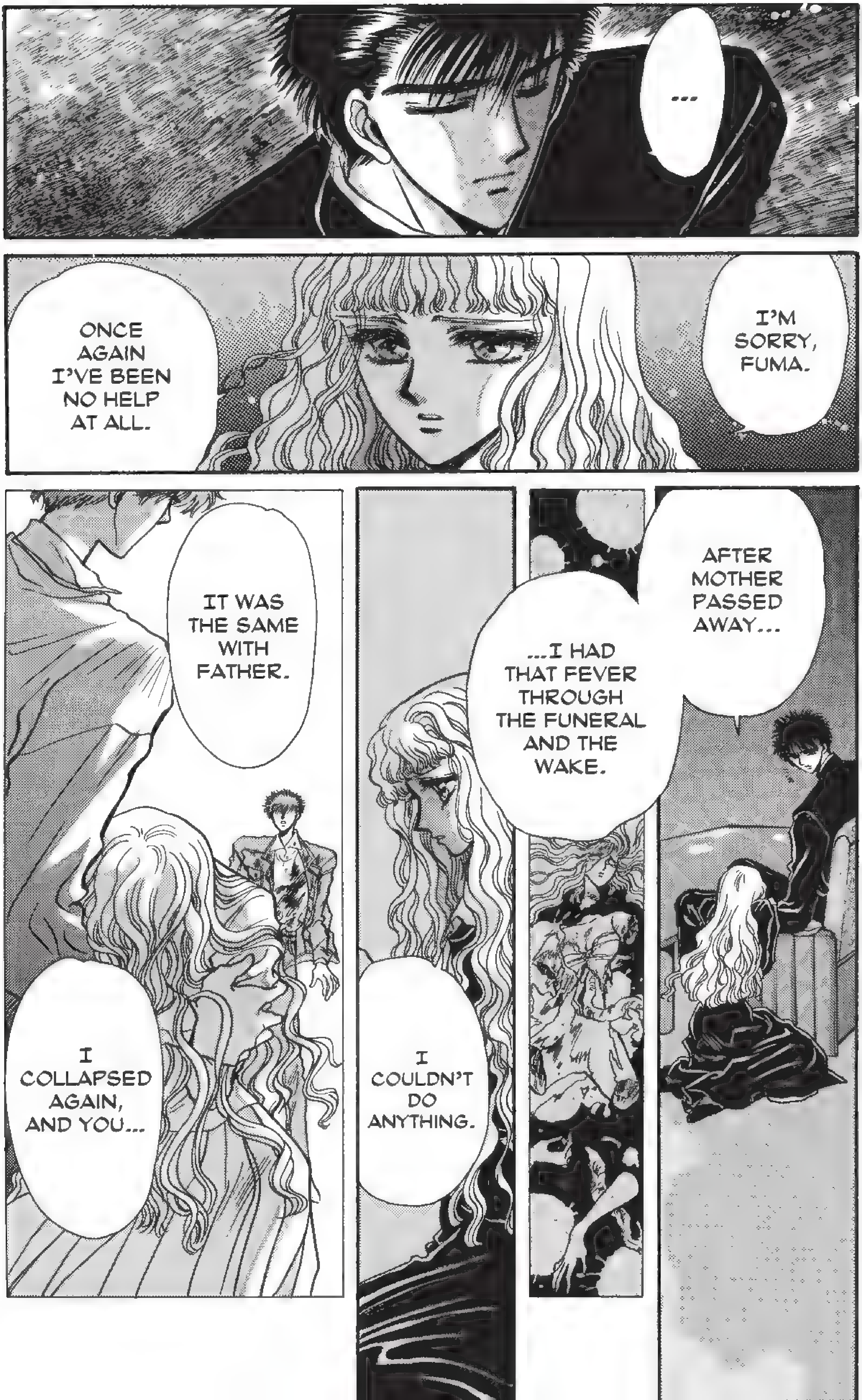

The arrow... has been loosed from the string.
The world... will end...
Fuma...
YOU ARE...
...KAMUI'S ...

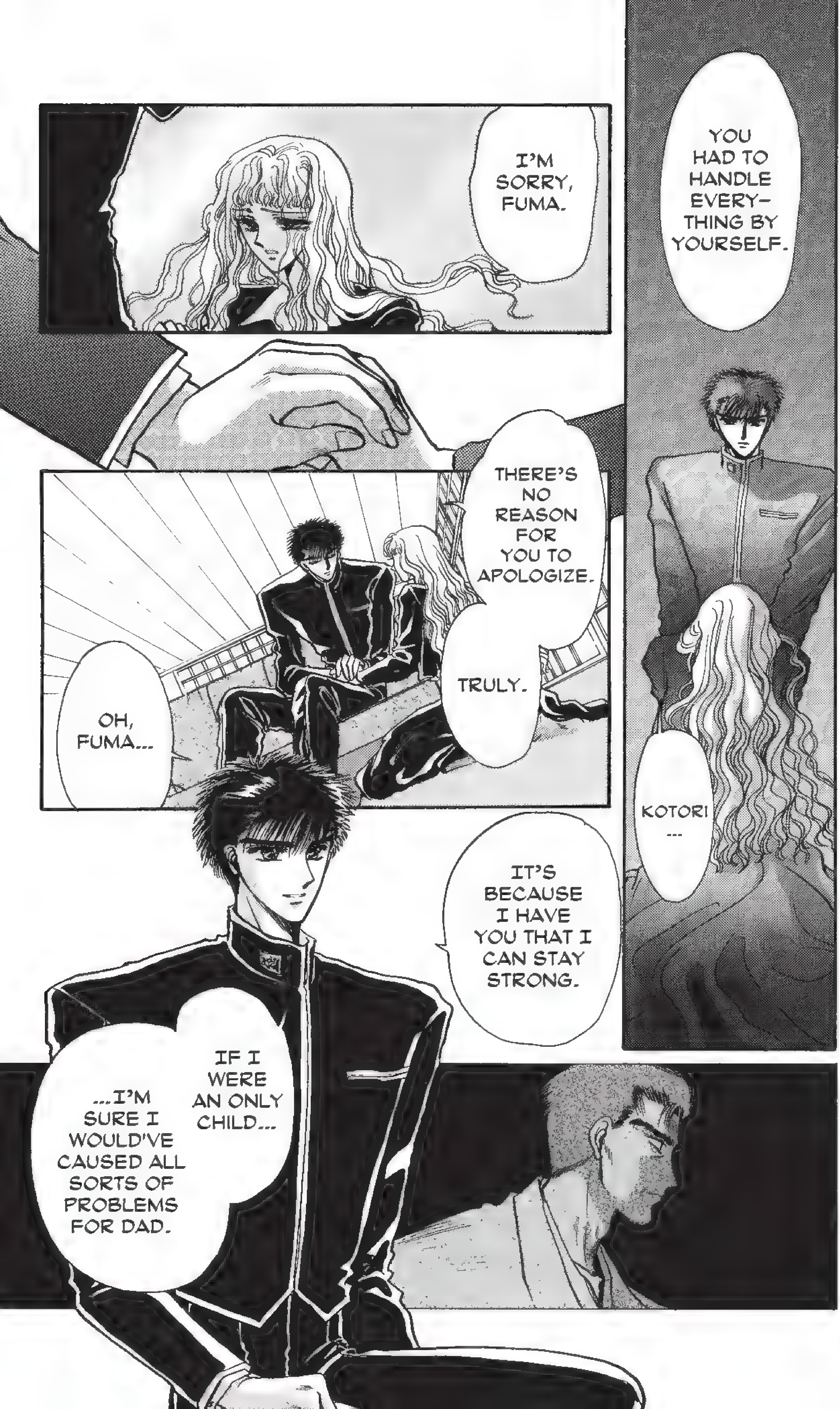

Kill him.
You...
You must kill Kamui.
Kill him...

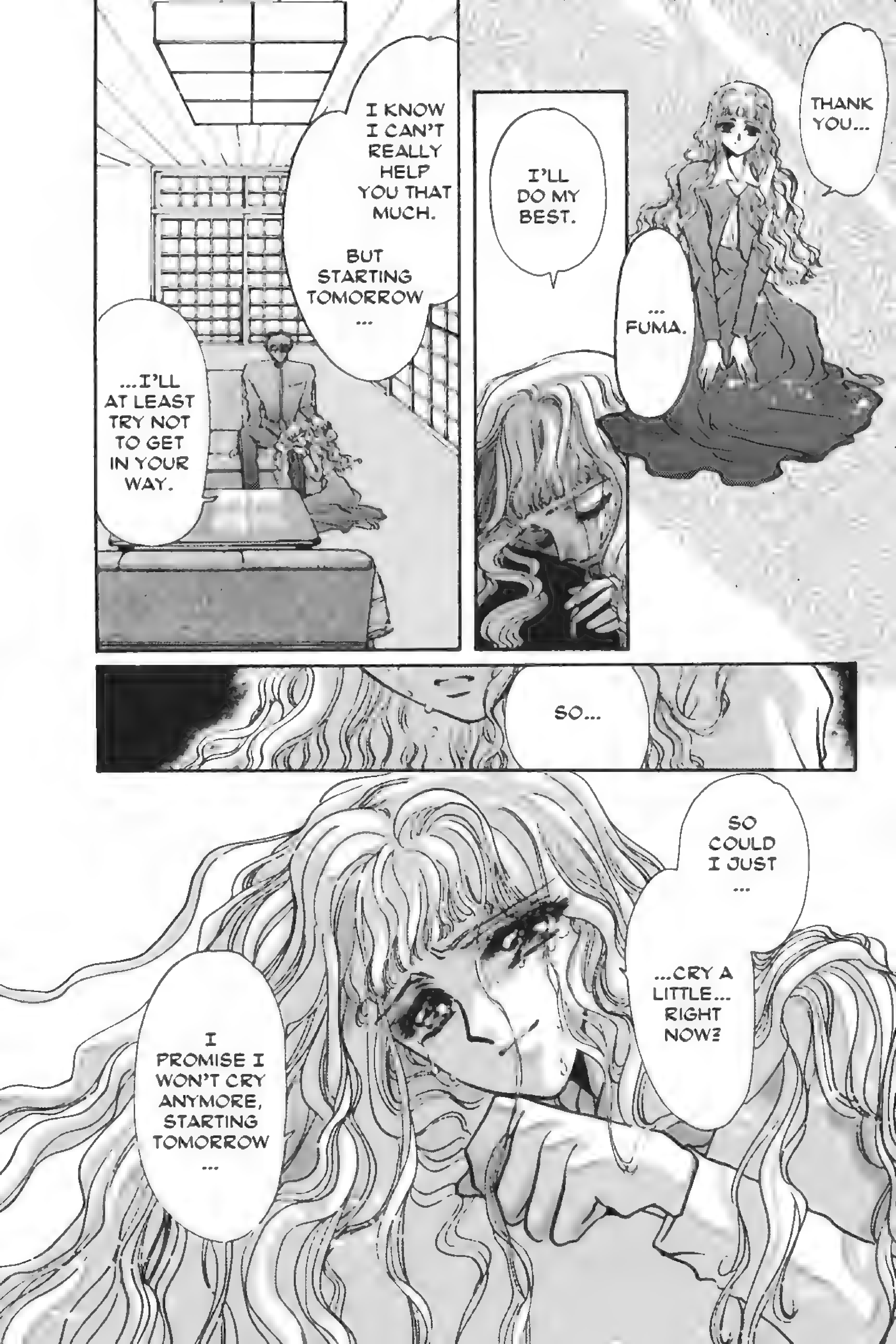

WHAT AM I TO KAMUI?
FATHER.....

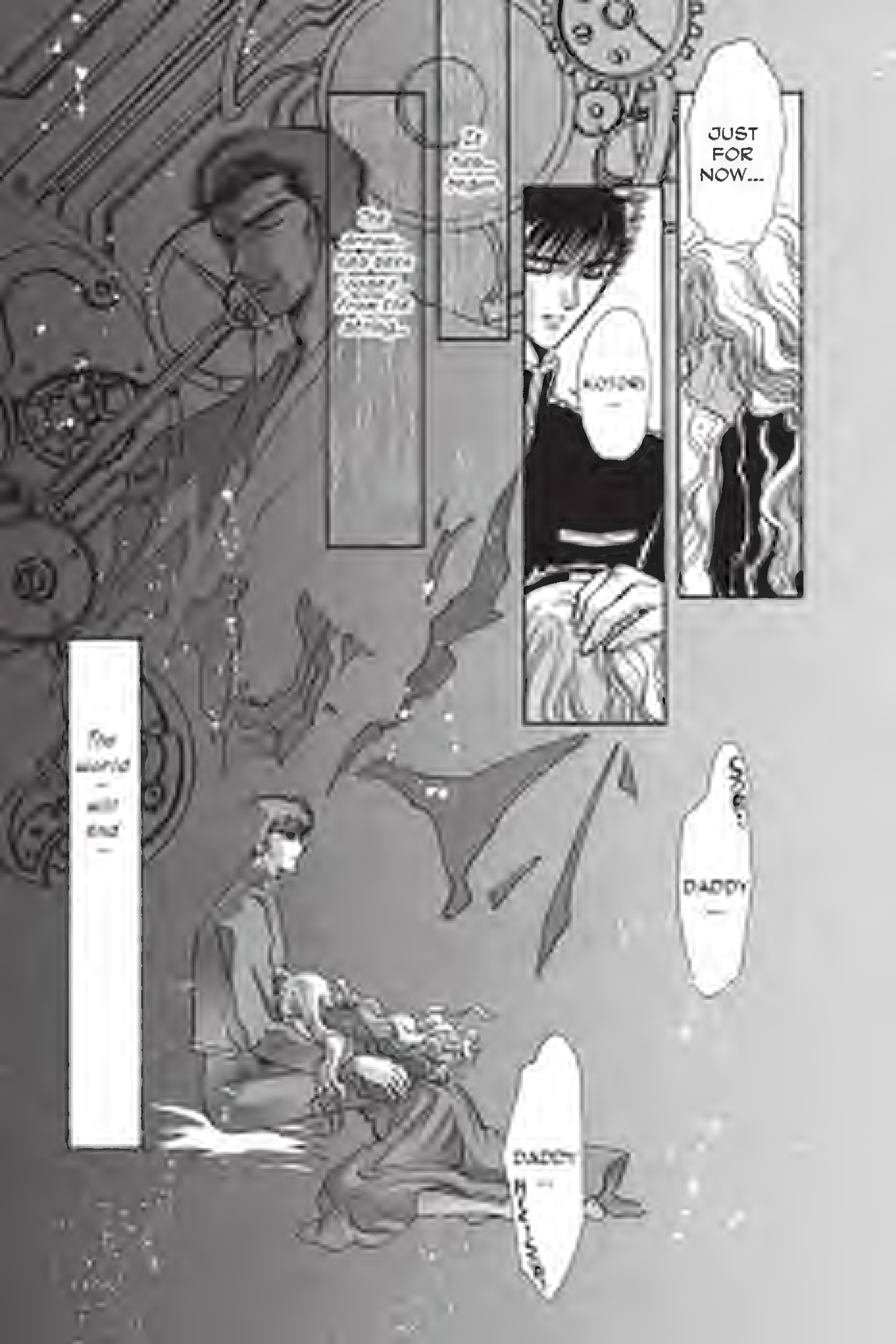

FUMA?
YOU SHOULD GET SOME MORE REST.
YOU'VE BARELY SLEPT AT ALL IN THE PAST TWO OR THREE DAYS...
WERE YOU...
...THE ONE WHO PUT THIS BLANKET ON ME?
THANK YOU, KOTORI.
SWIP
CAN I COME SIT NEXT TO YOU?

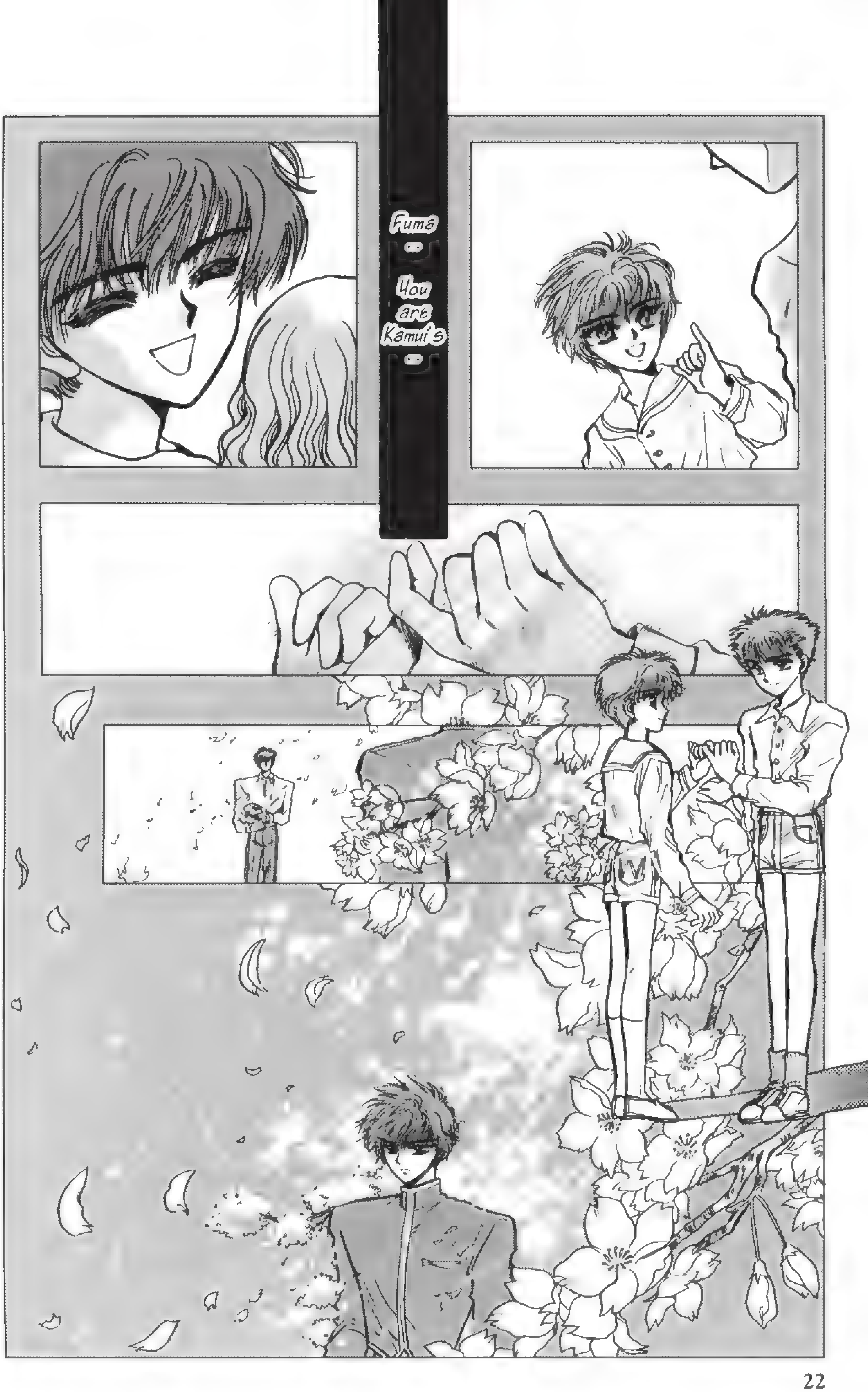

SHF
...IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US NOW, ISN'T IT?

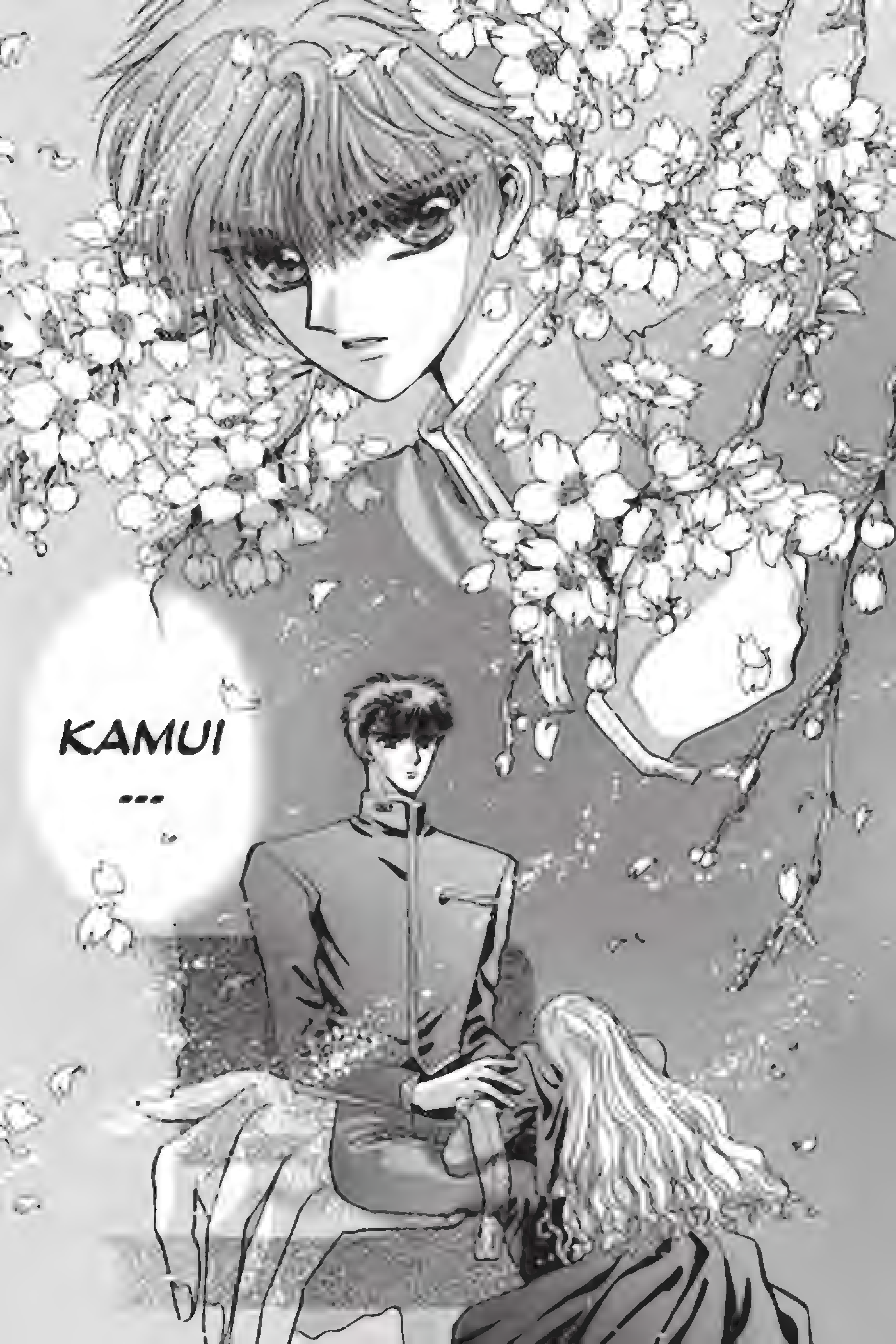

...
I'M SORRY, FUMA.
ONCE AGAIN I'VE BEEN NO HELP AT ALL.
AFTER MOTHER PASSED AWAY...
...I HAD THAT FEVER THROUGH THE FUNERAL AND THE WAKE.
I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING.
IT WAS THE SAME WITH FATHER.
I COLLAPSED AGAIN, AND YOU...

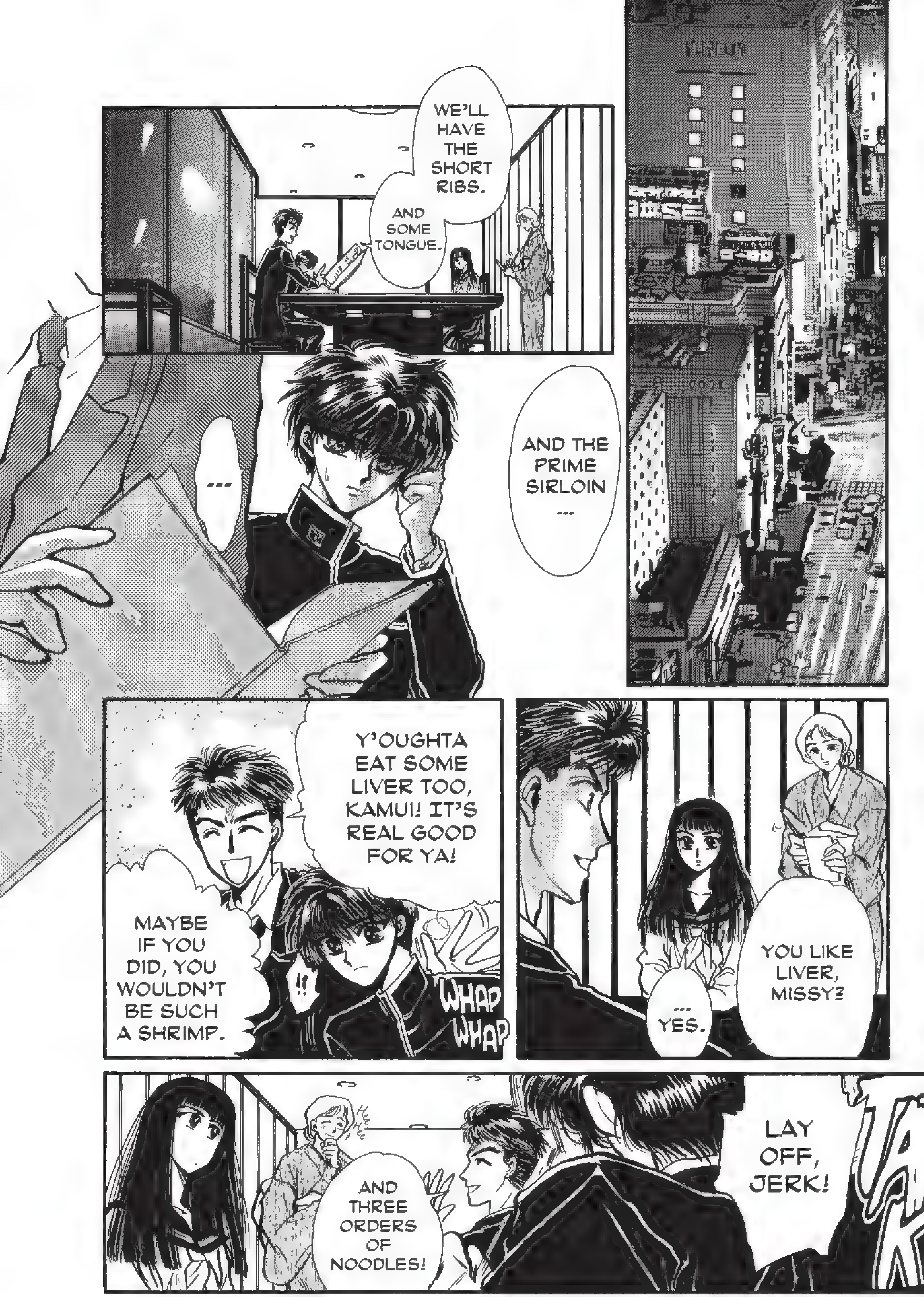

I'M SORRY, FUMA.
YOU HAD TO HANDLE EVERYTHING BY YOURSELF.
THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO APOLOGIZE.
TRULY.
OH, FUMA...
KOTORI...
IT'S BECAUSE I HAVE YOU THAT I CAN STAY STRONG.
IF I WERE AN ONLY CHILD...
...I'M SURE I WOULD'VE CAUSED ALL SORTS OF PROBLEMS FOR DAD.

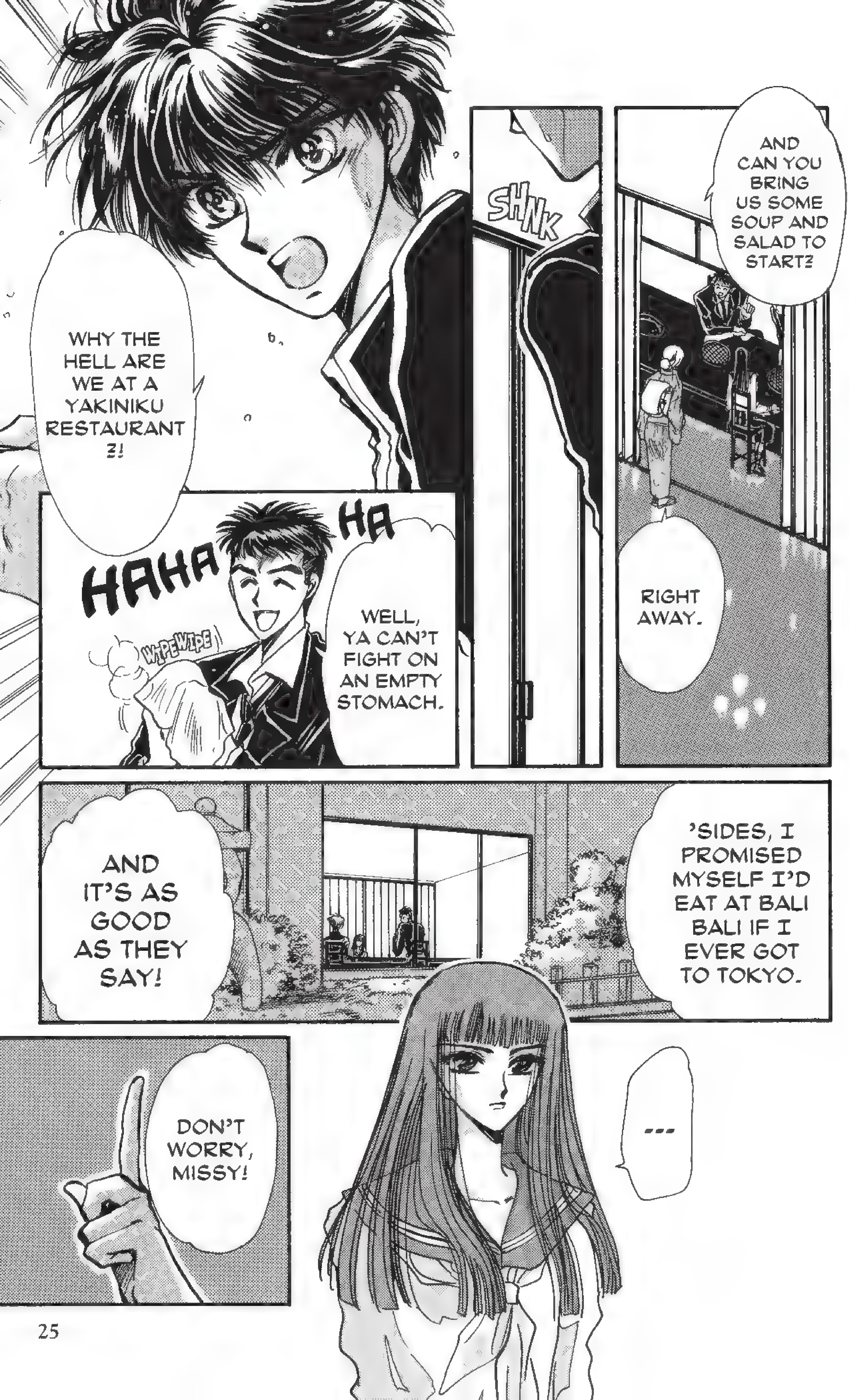

I KNOW I CAN'T REALLY HELP YOU THAT MUCH.
BUT STARTING TOMORROW...
...I'LL AT LEAST TRY NOT TO GET IN YOUR WAY.
I'LL DO MY BEST.
...FUMA.
THANK YOU...
SO...
SO COULD I JUST...
...CRY A LITTLE... RIGHT NOW?
I PROMISE I WON'T CRY ANYMORE, STARTING TOMORROW...

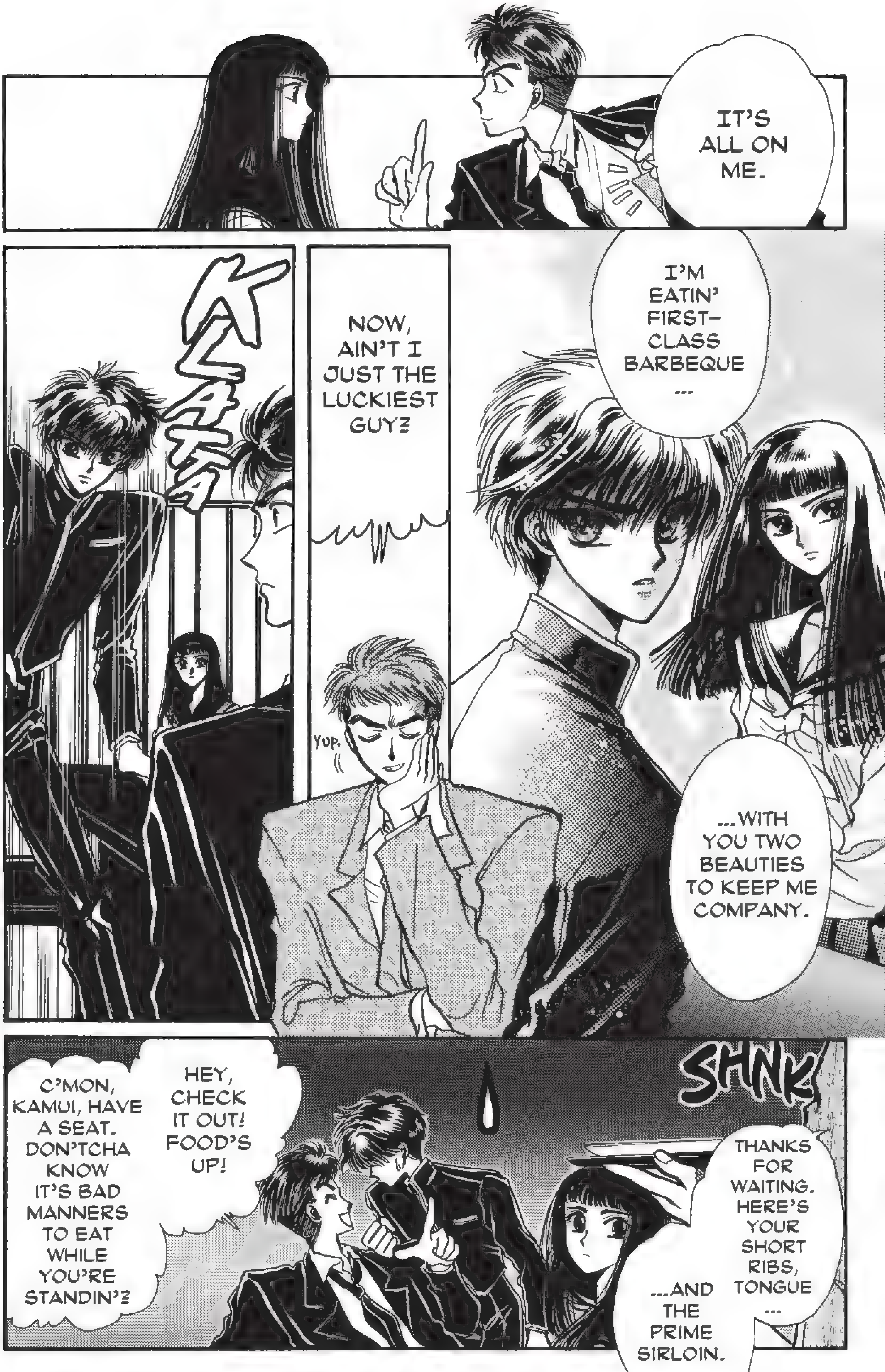

JUST FOR NOW...
KOTORI...
It has... begun...
The dream... had been coming from the beginning...
SAVE... DADDY...
DADDY... HELP ME!
The world... will end...

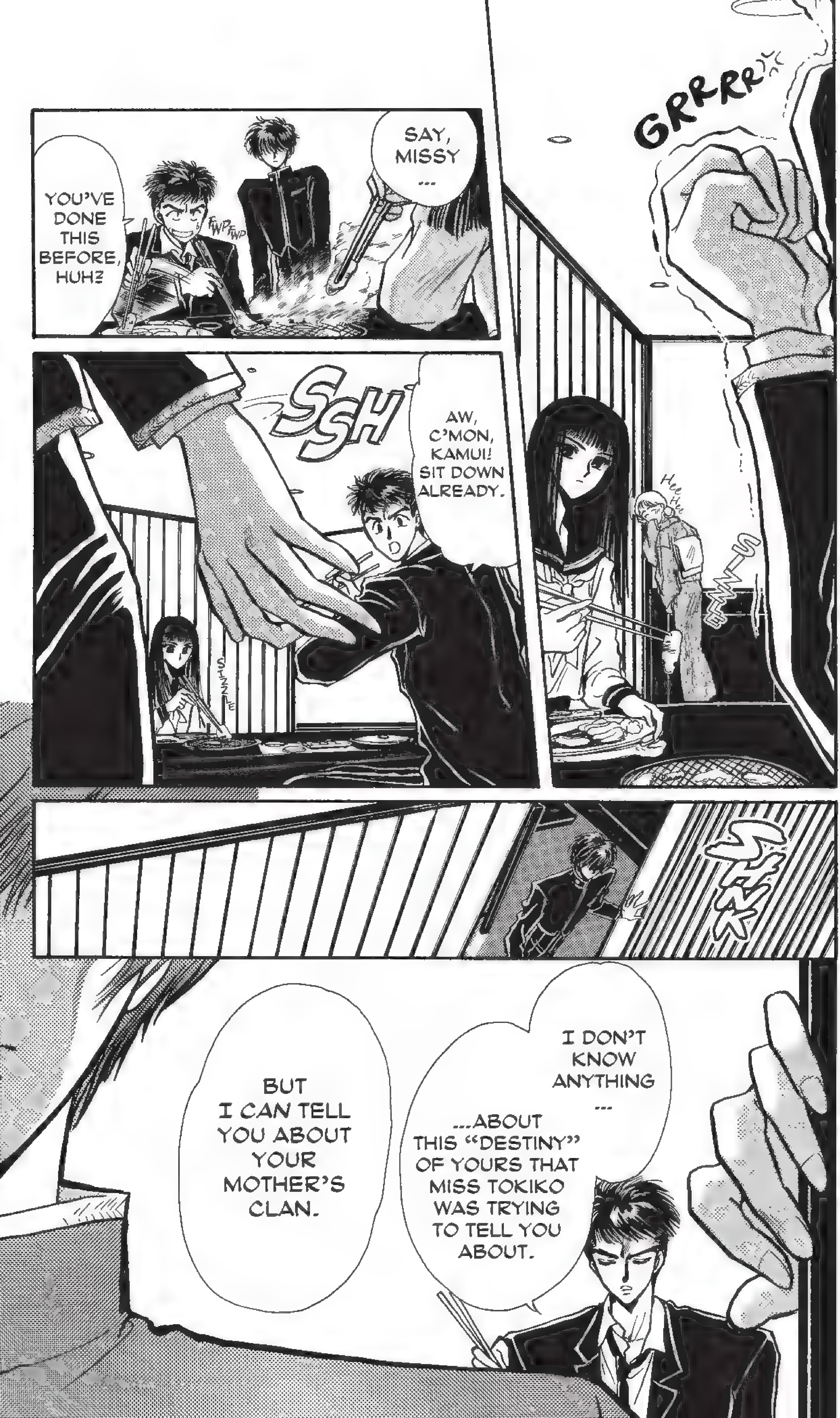

Fuma ..
You are Kamui's ..

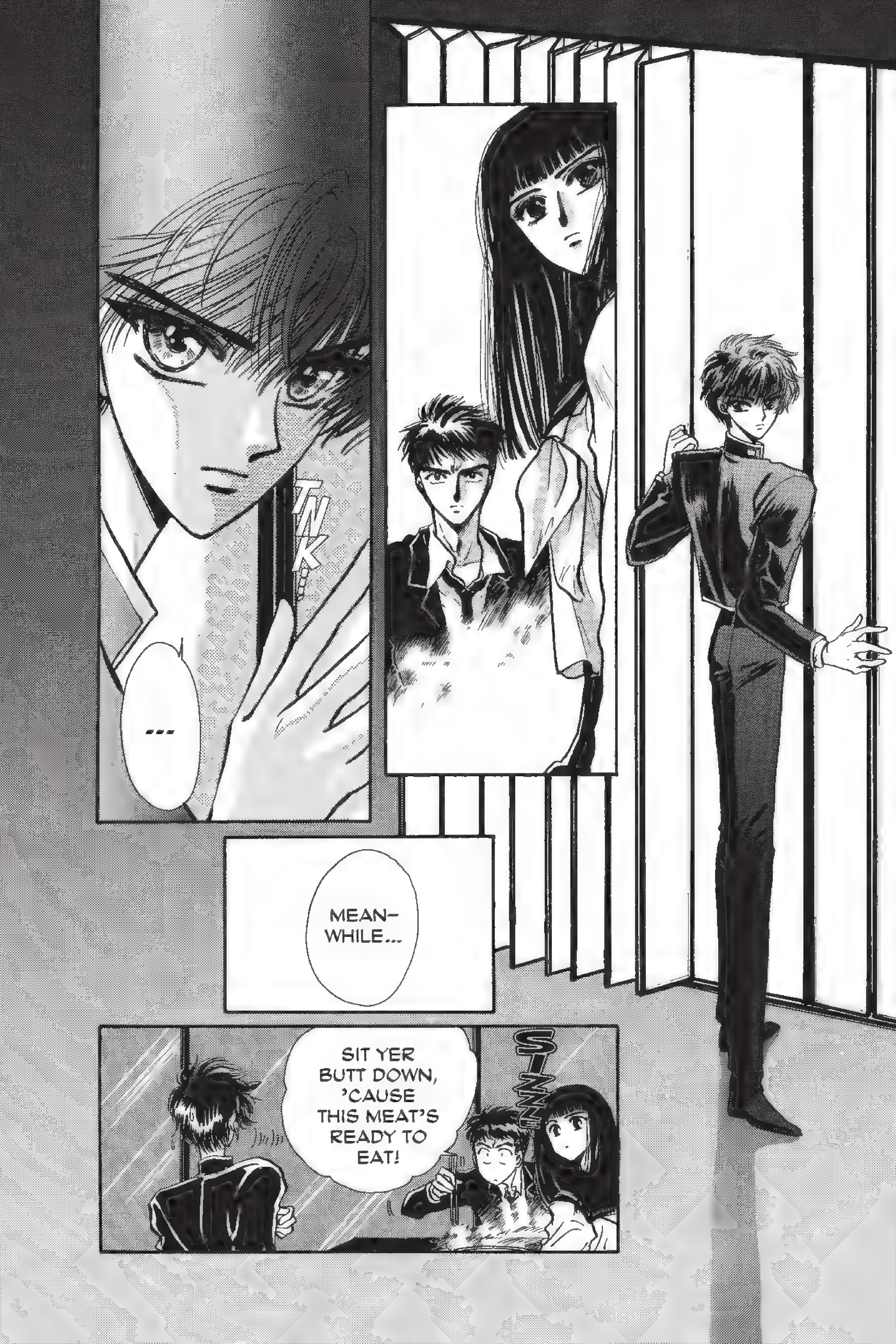

KAMUI
...

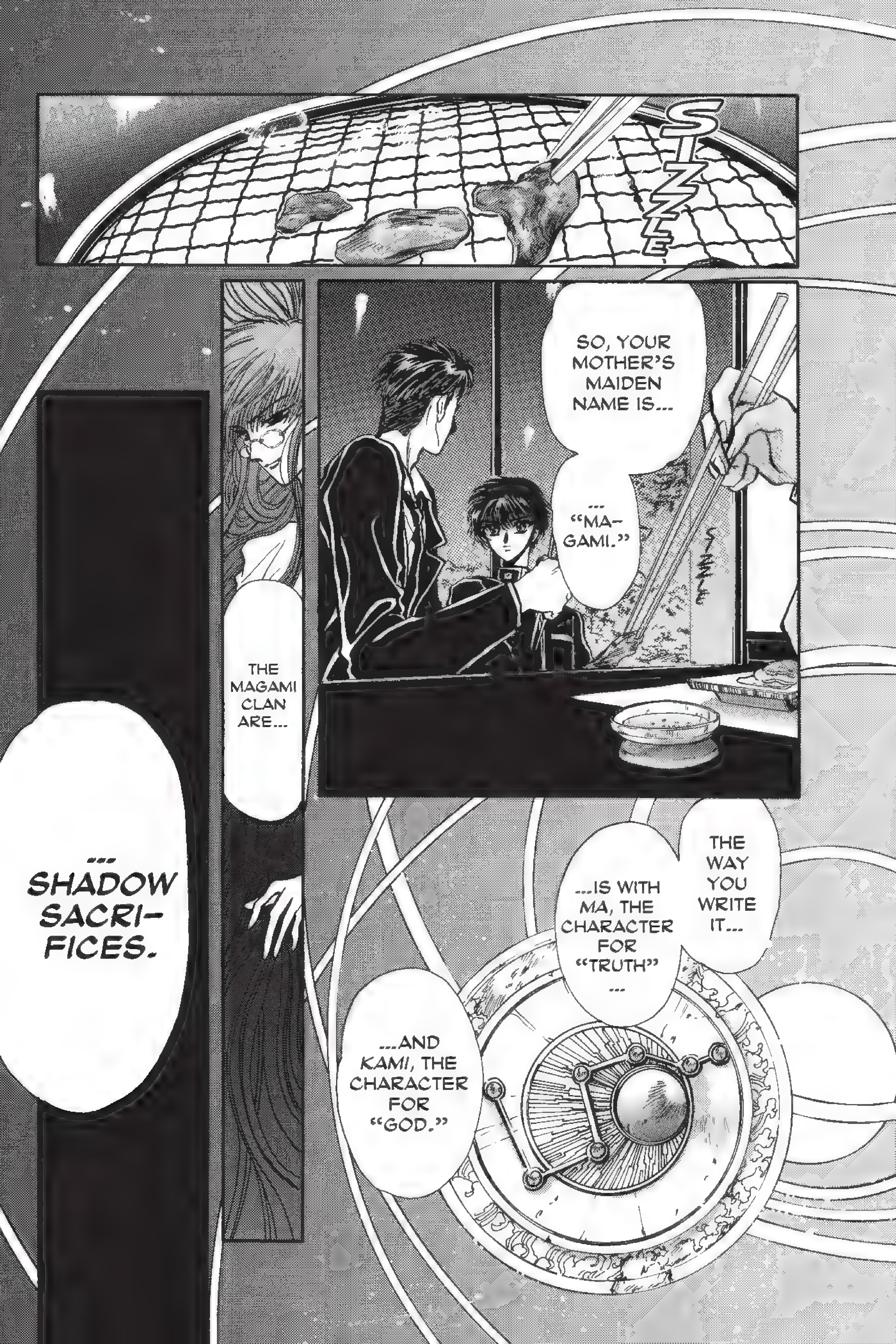

WE'LL HAVE THE SHORT RIBS.
AND SOME TONGUE.
AND THE PRIME SIRLOIN ...
...
YOU LIKE LIVER, MISSY?
... YES.
Y'OUGHTA EAT SOME LIVER TOO, KAMUI! IT'S REAL GOOD FOR YA!
!!
WHAP WHAP
MAYBE IF YOU DID, YOU WOULDN'T BE SUCH A SHRIMP.
LAY OFF, JERK!
AND THREE ORDERS OF NOODLES!
He He

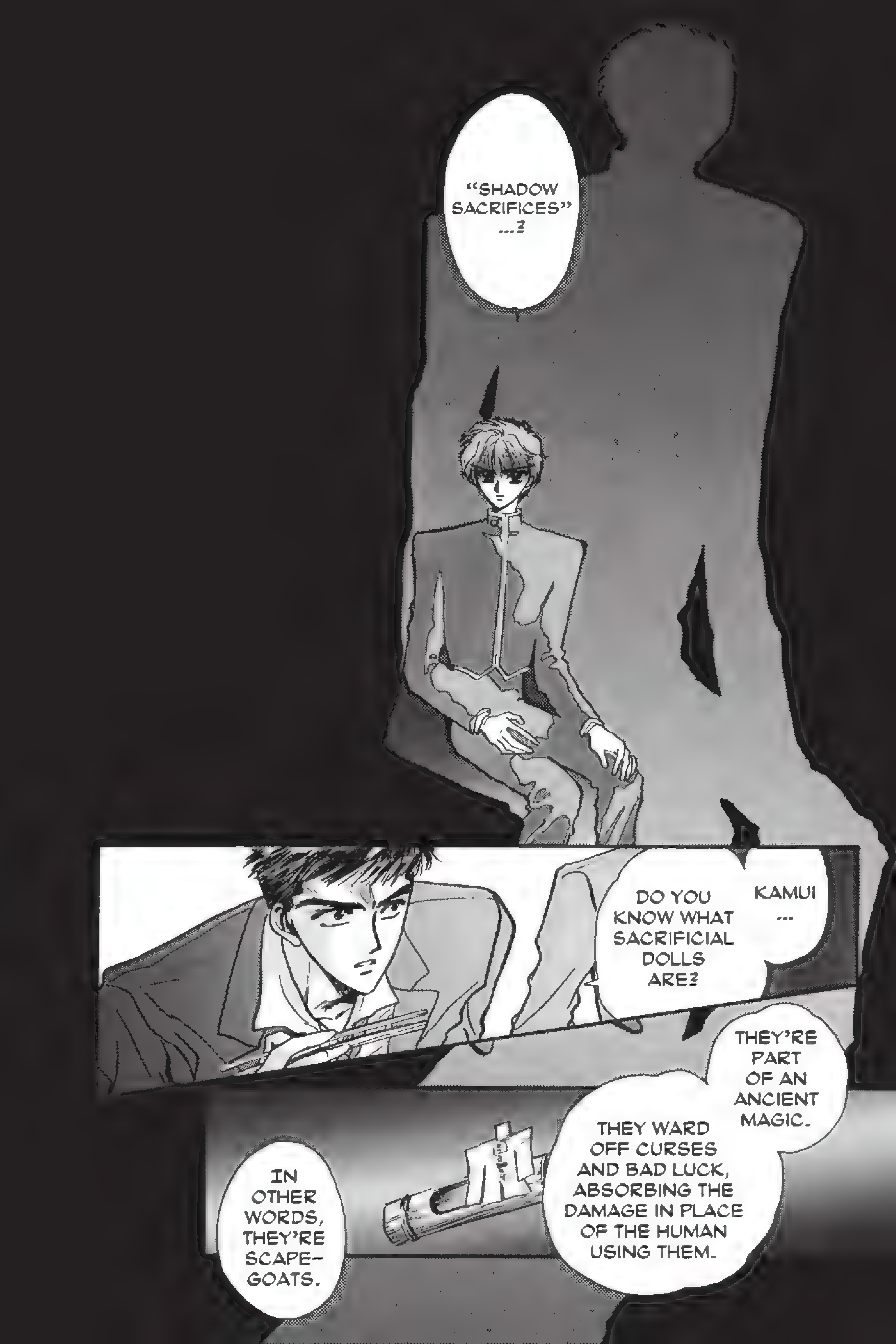

AND CAN YOU BRING US SOME SOUP AND SALAD TO START?
RIGHT AWAY.
SHNK
WHY THE HELL ARE WE AT A YAKINIKU RESTAURANT?!
HAHA HA
WIPEWIPE
WELL, YA CAN'T FIGHT ON AN EMPTY STOMACH.
'SIDES, I PROMISED MYSELF I'D EAT AT BALI BALI IF I EVER GOT TO TOKYO.
AND IT'S AS GOOD AS THEY SAY!
...
DON'T WORRY, MISSY!

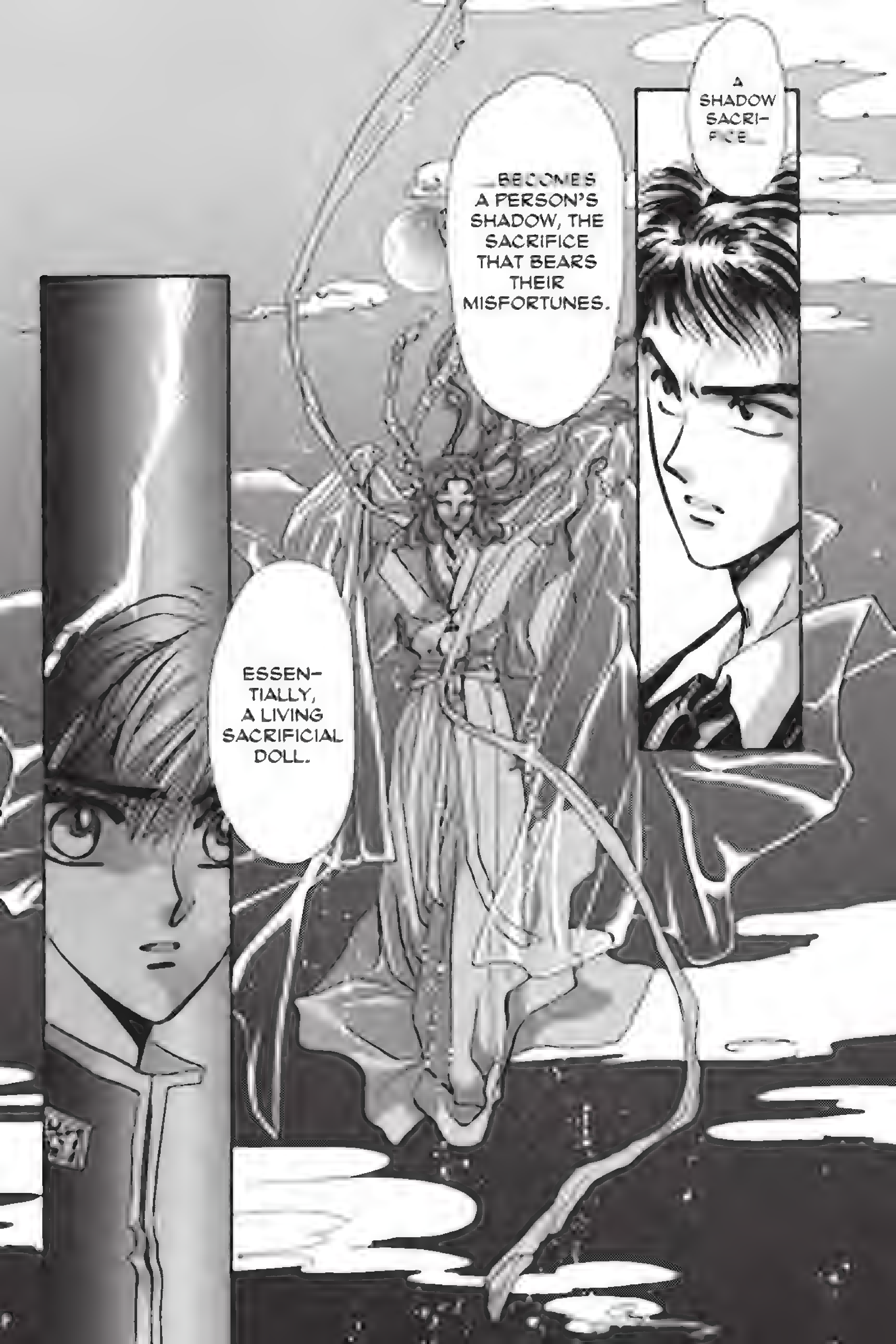

IT'S ALL ON ME.
I'M EATIN' FIRST-CLASS BARBEQUE ...
...WITH YOU TWO BEAUTIES TO KEEP ME COMPANY.
NOW, AIN'T I JUST THE LUCKIEST GUY?
yup.
KATA
SHNK
THANKS FOR WAITING. HERE'S YOUR SHORT RIBS, TONGUE ...
...AND THE PRIME SIRLOIN.
HEY, CHECK IT OUT! FOOD'S UP!
C'MON, KAMUI, HAVE A SEAT. DON'TCHA KNOW IT'S BAD MANNERS TO EAT WHILE YOU'RE STANDIN'?

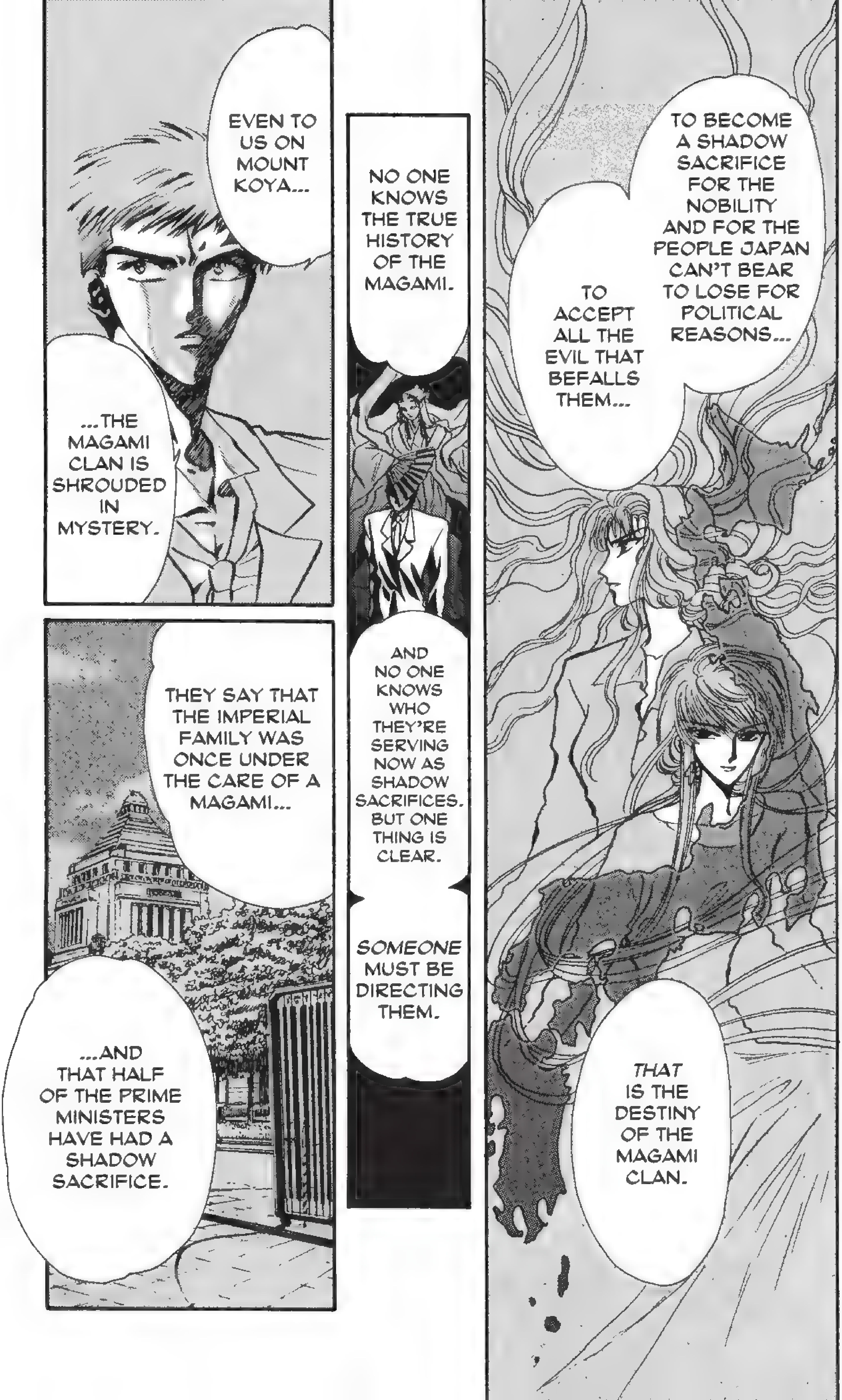

GRRRR
SAY, MISSY ...
FWP FWP
YOU'VE DONE THIS BEFORE, HUH?
Hee Hee
SIZZLE
AW, C'MON, KAMUI! SIT DOWN ALREADY.
SSH
SIZZLE
SHNK
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ...
...ABOUT THIS "DESTINY" OF YOURS THAT MISS TOKIKO WAS TRYING TO TELL YOU ABOUT.
BUT I CAN TELL YOU ABOUT YOUR MOTHER'S CLAN.

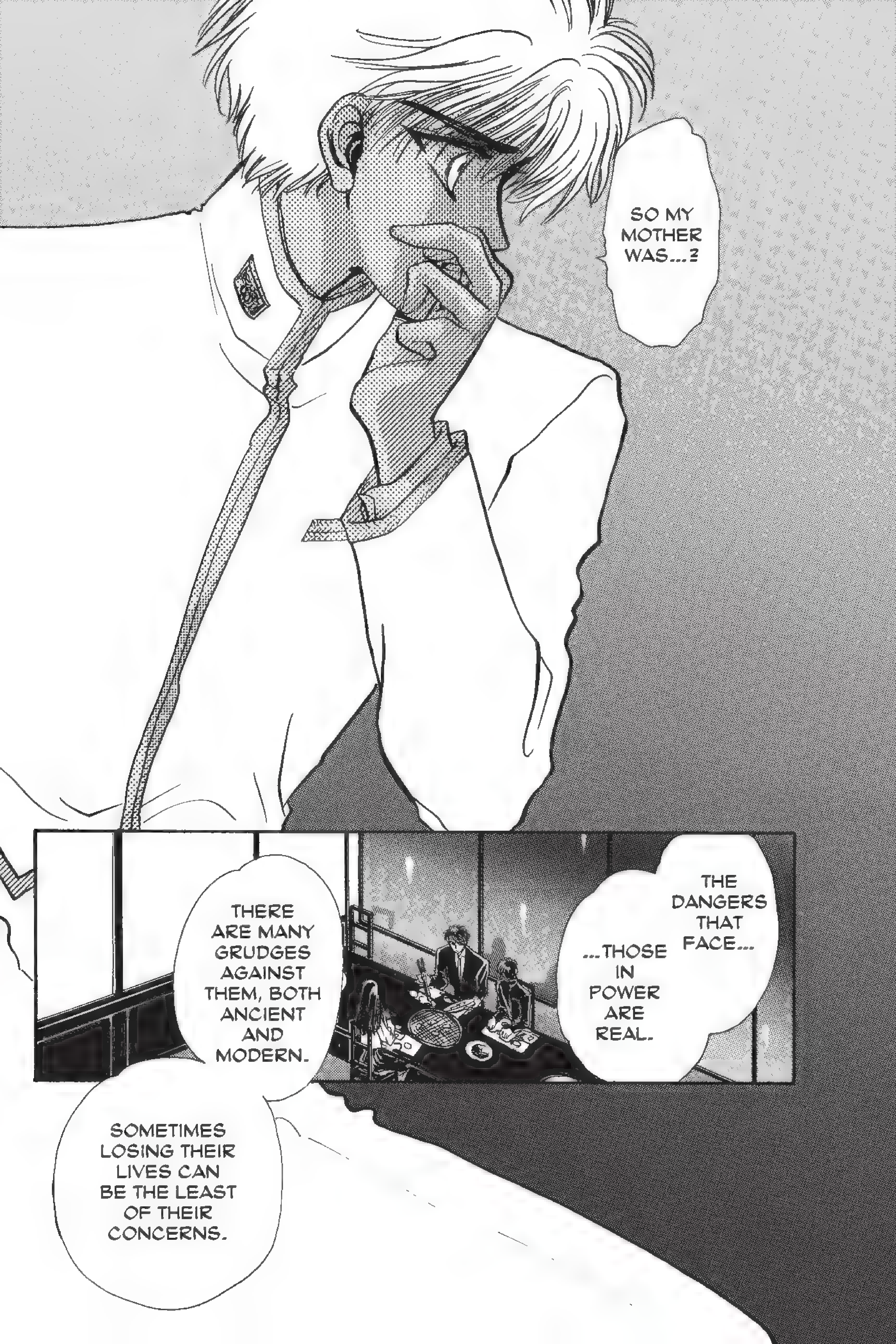

TNK
...
MEAN-WHILE...
SIZZZZ
SIT YER BUTT DOWN, 'CAUSE THIS MEAT'S READY TO EAT!

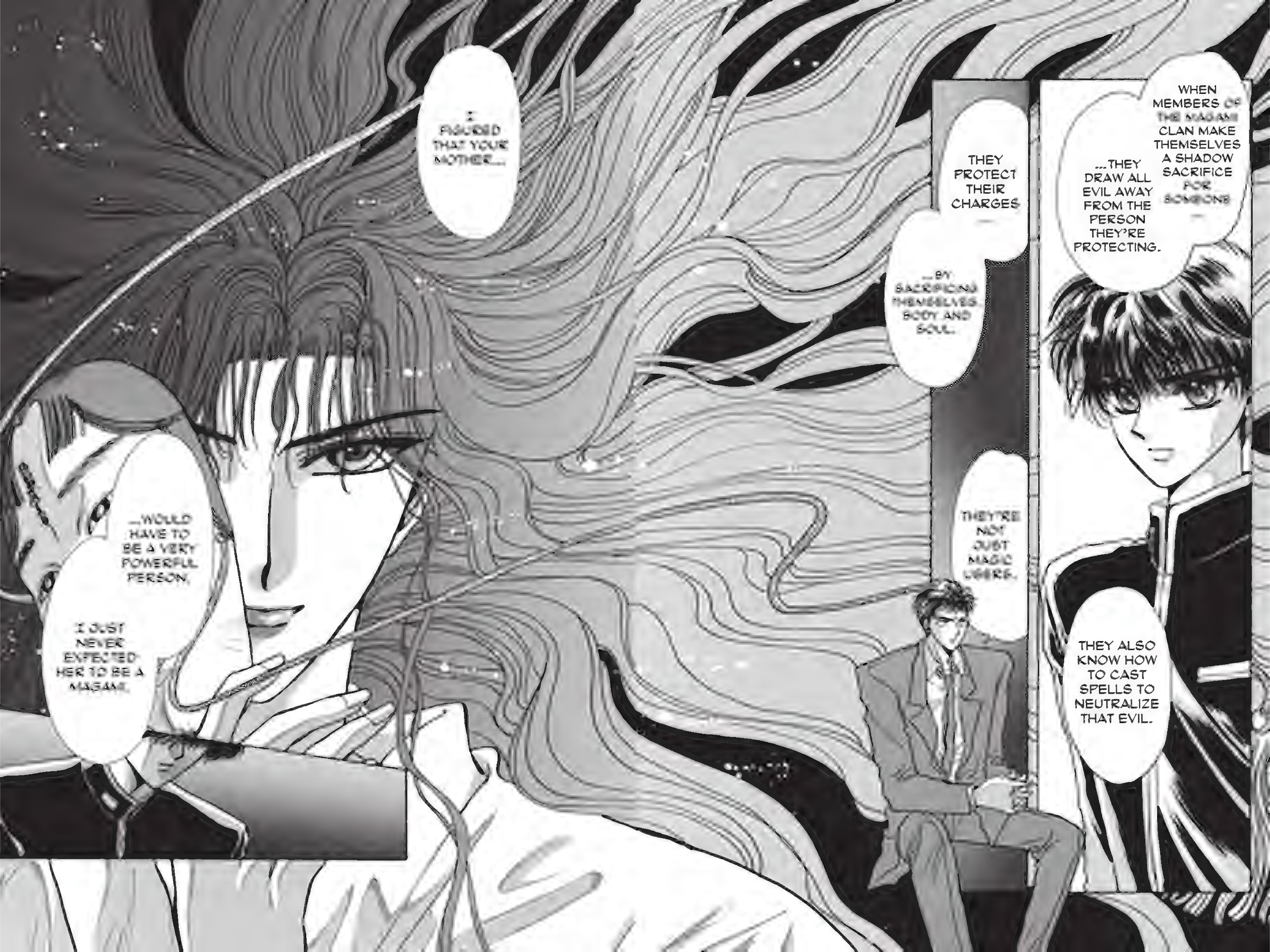

SIZZLE
SO, YOUR MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME IS...
...“MA-GAMI.”
SIZZLE
THE WAY YOU WRITE IT...
...IS WITH MA, THE CHARACTER FOR “TRUTH”...
...AND *KAMI*, THE CHARACTER FOR “GOD.”
THE MAGAMI CLAN ARE...
...SHADOW SACRIFICES.

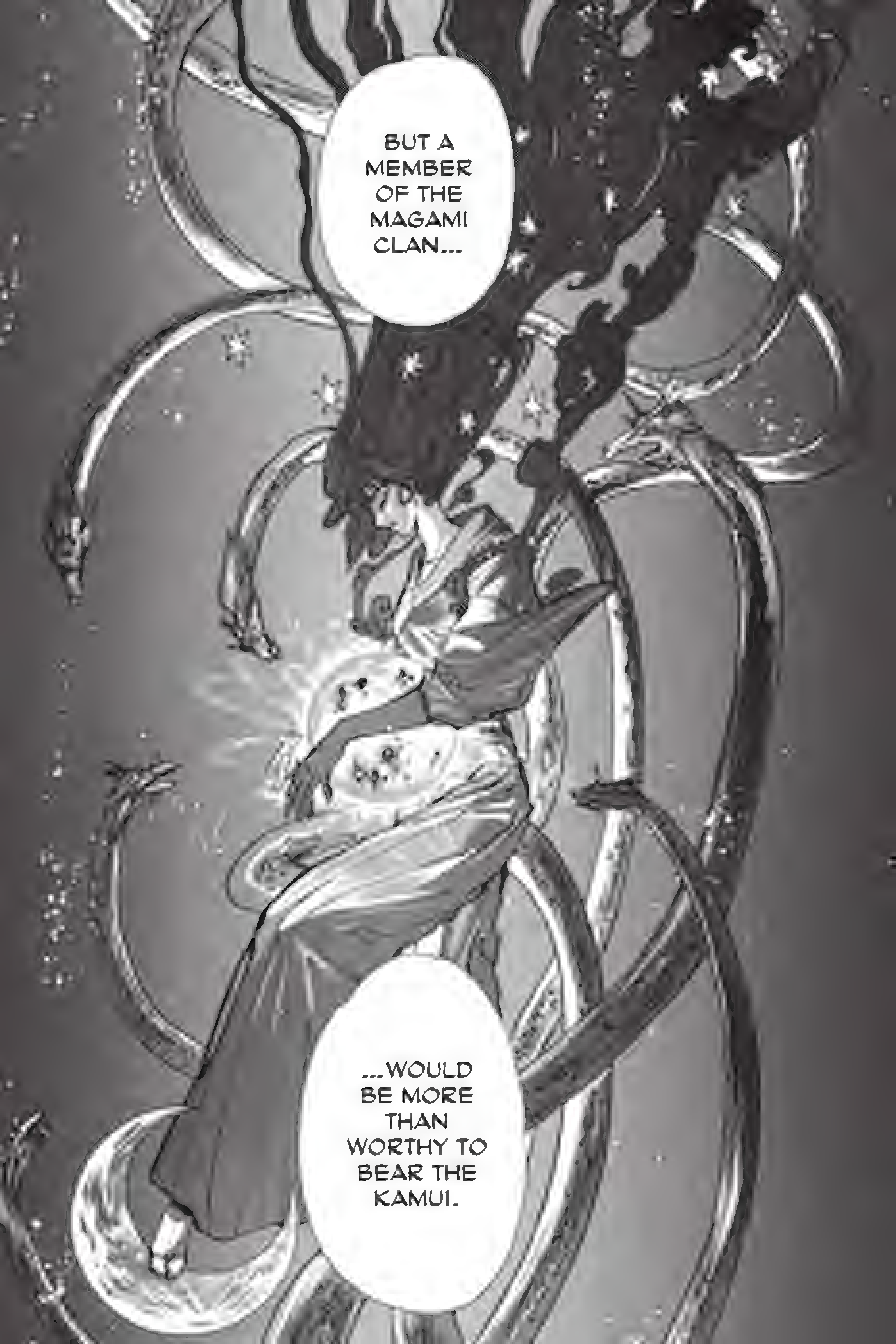

"SHADOW SACRIFICES" ...?
KAMUI ...
DO YOU KNOW WHAT SACRIFICIAL DOLLS ARE?
THEY'RE PART OF AN ANCIENT MAGIC.
THEY WARD OFF CURSES AND BAD LUCK, ABSORBING THE DAMAGE IN PLACE OF THE HUMAN USING THEM.
IN OTHER WORDS, THEY'RE SCAPEGOATS.

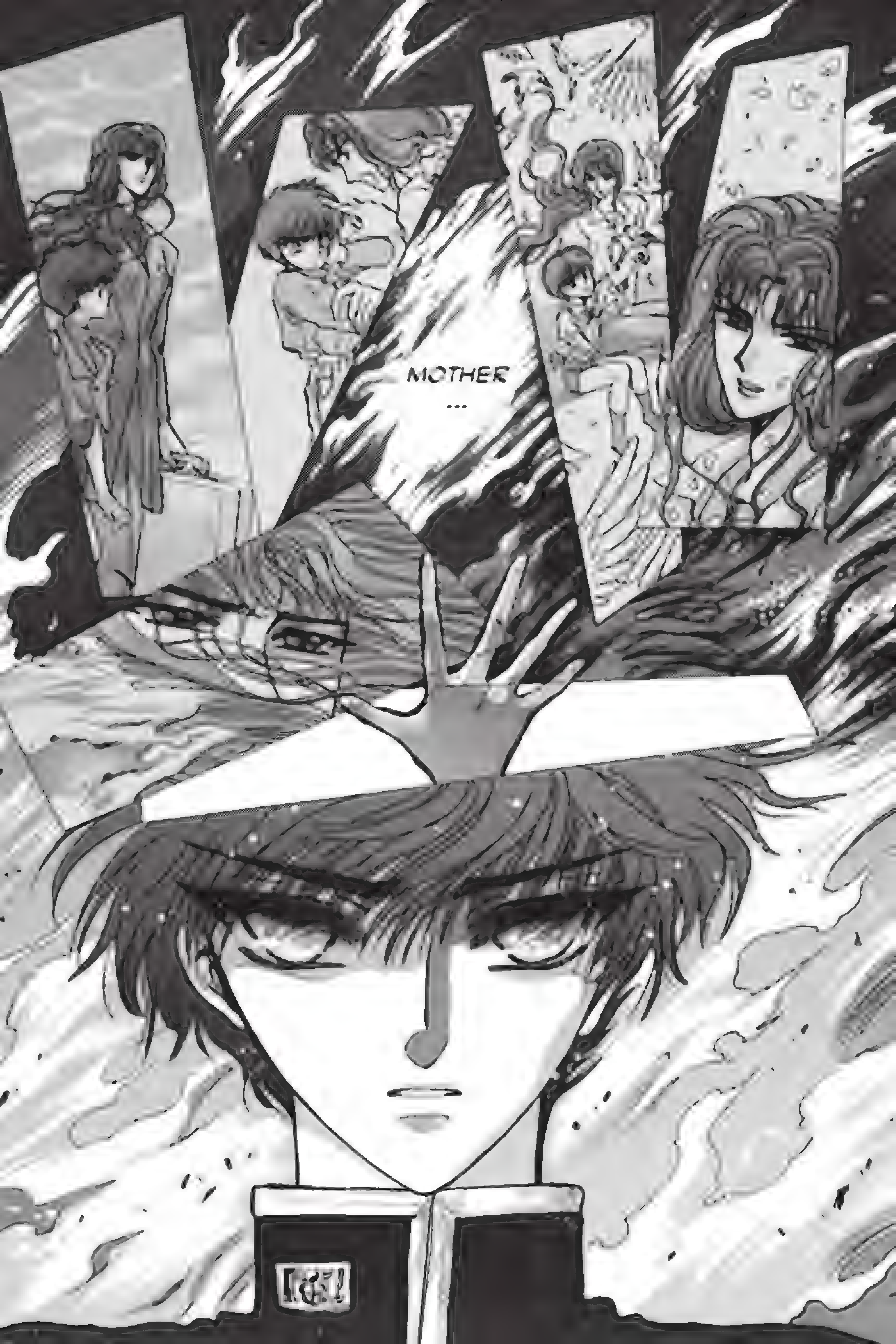

A SHADOW SACRIFICE...
...BECOMES A PERSON'S SHADOW, THE SACRIFICE THAT BEARS THEIR MISFORTUNES.
ESSENTIALLY, A LIVING SACRIFICIAL DOLL.

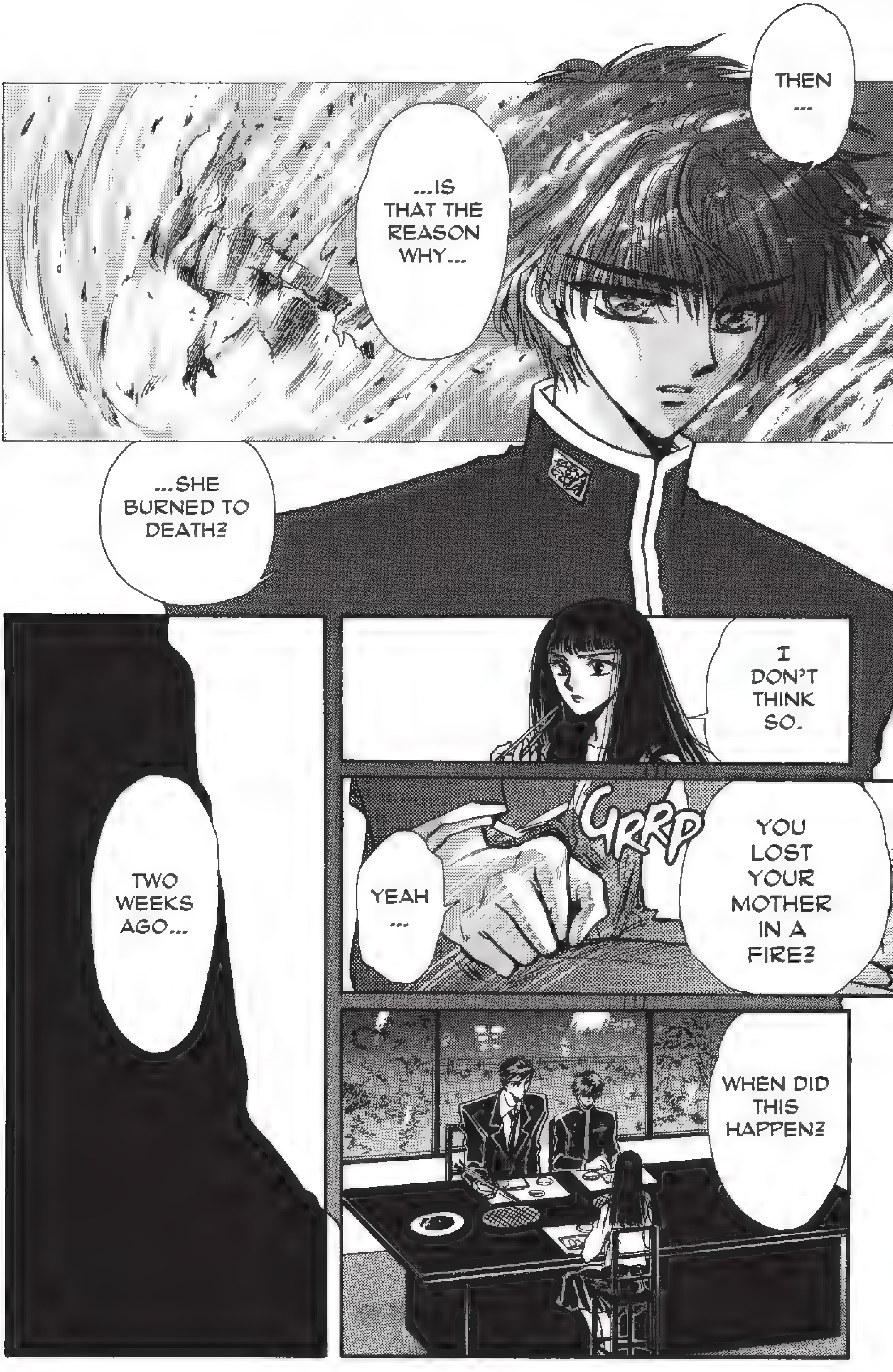

EVEN TO US ON MOUNT KOYA...
...THE MAGAMI CLAN IS SHROUDED IN MYSTERY.
THEY SAY THAT THE IMPERIAL FAMILY WAS ONCE UNDER THE CARE OF A MAGAMI...
...AND THAT HALF OF THE PRIME MINISTERS HAVE HAD A SHADOW SACRIFICE.
NO ONE KNOWS THE TRUE HISTORY OF THE MAGAMI.
AND NO ONE KNOWS WHO THEY'RE SERVING NOW AS SHADOW SACRIFICES. BUT ONE THING IS CLEAR.
SOMEONE MUST BE DIRECTING THEM.
TO BECOME A SHADOW SACRIFICE FOR THE NOBILITY AND FOR THE PEOPLE JAPAN CAN'T BEAR TO LOSE FOR POLITICAL REASONS...
TO ACCEPT ALL THE EVIL THAT BEFALLS THEM...
THAT IS THE DESTINY OF THE MAGAMI CLAN.

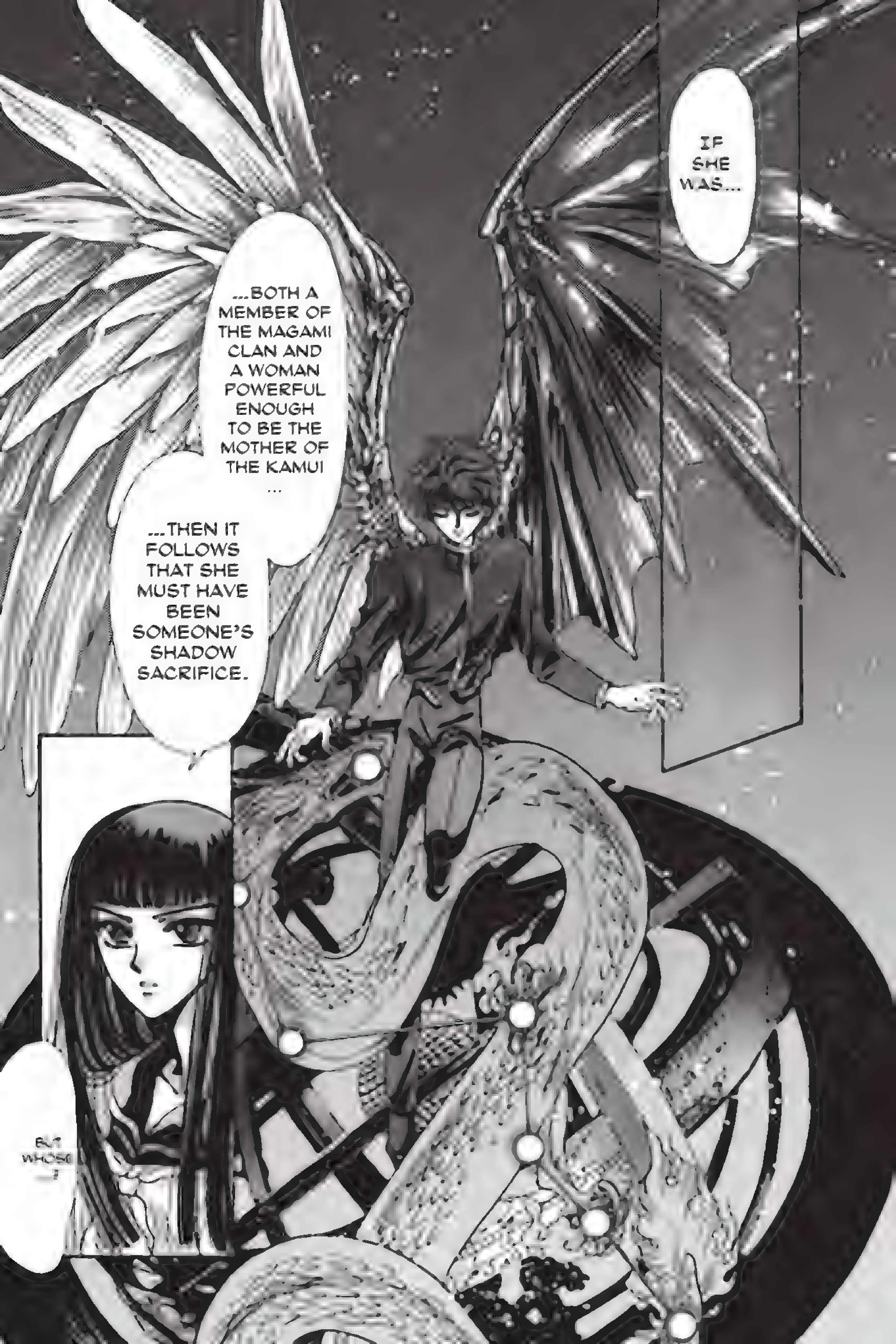

SO MY MOTHER WAS...?
THE DANGERS THAT FACE...
...THOSE IN POWER ARE REAL.
THERE ARE MANY GRUDGES AGAINST THEM, BOTH ANCIENT AND MODERN.
SOMETIMES LOSING THEIR LIVES CAN BE THE LEAST OF THEIR CONCERNS.

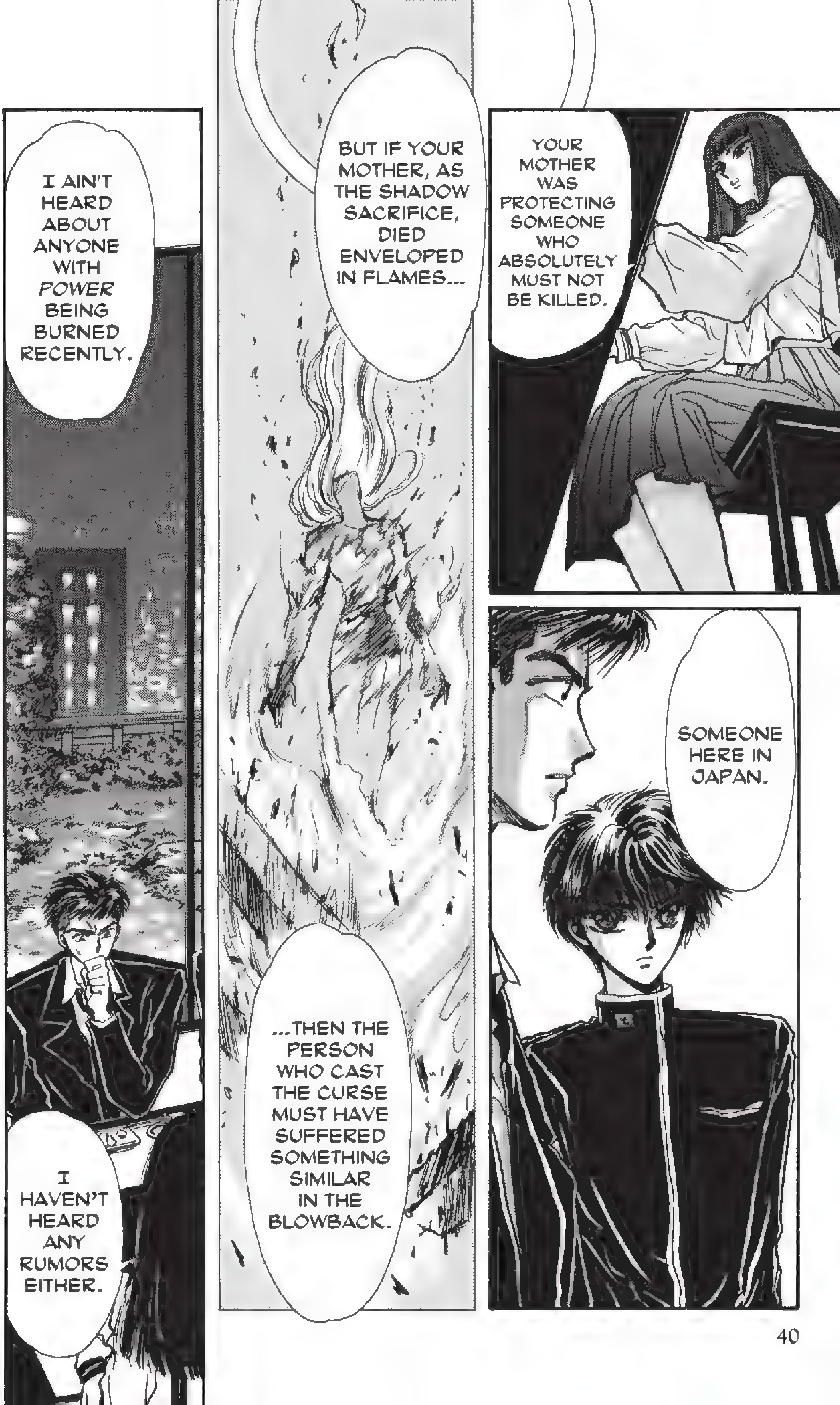

WHEN MEMBERS OF THE MAGAMI CLAN MAKE THEMSELVES A SHADOW SACRIFICE FOR SOMEONE ...
...THEY DRAW ALL EVIL AWAY FROM THE PERSON THEY'RE PROTECTING.
THEY PROTECT THEIR CHARGES —
...BY SACRIFICING THEMSELVES, BODY AND SOUL.
THEY'RE NOT JUST MAGIC USERS.
THEY ALSO KNOW HOW TO CAST SPELLS TO NEUTRALIZE THAT EVIL.
I FIGURED THAT YOUR MOTHER...
...WOULD HAVE TO BE A VERY POWERFUL PERSON.
I JUST NEVER EXPECTED HER TO BE A MAGAMI.

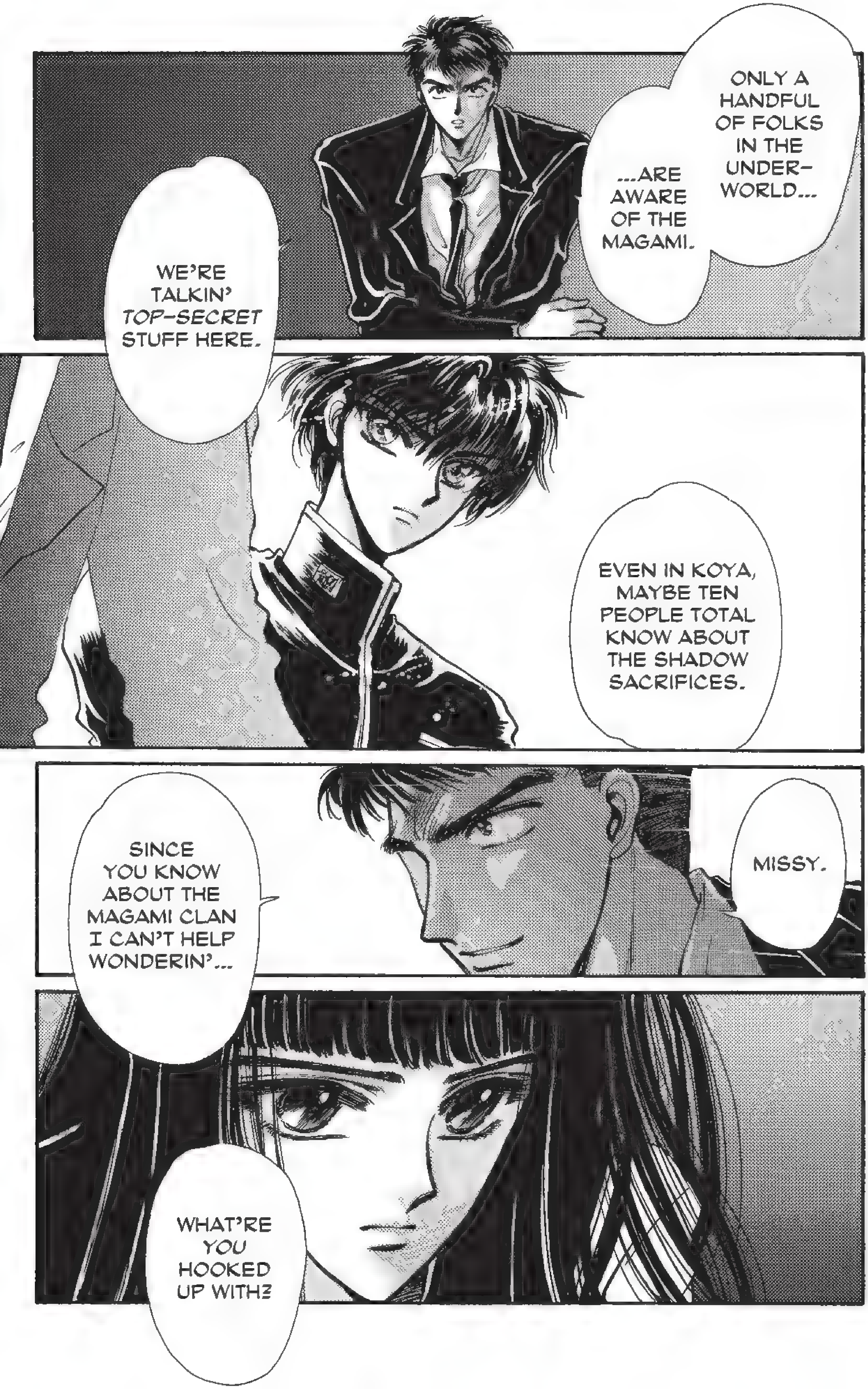

BUT A MEMBER OF THE MAGAMI CLAN...
...WOULD BE MORE THAN WORTHY TO BEAR THE KAMUI.

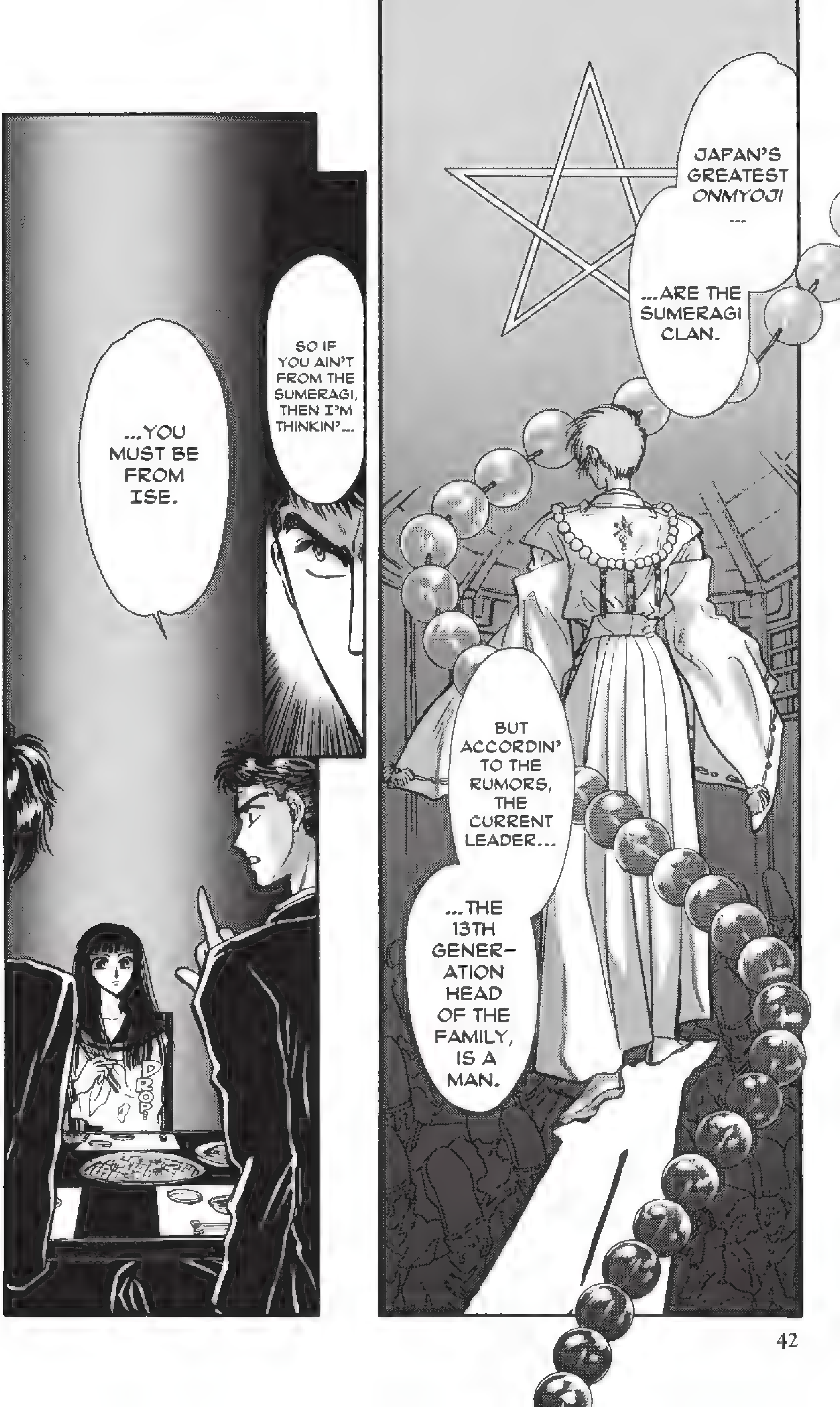

MOTHER
...

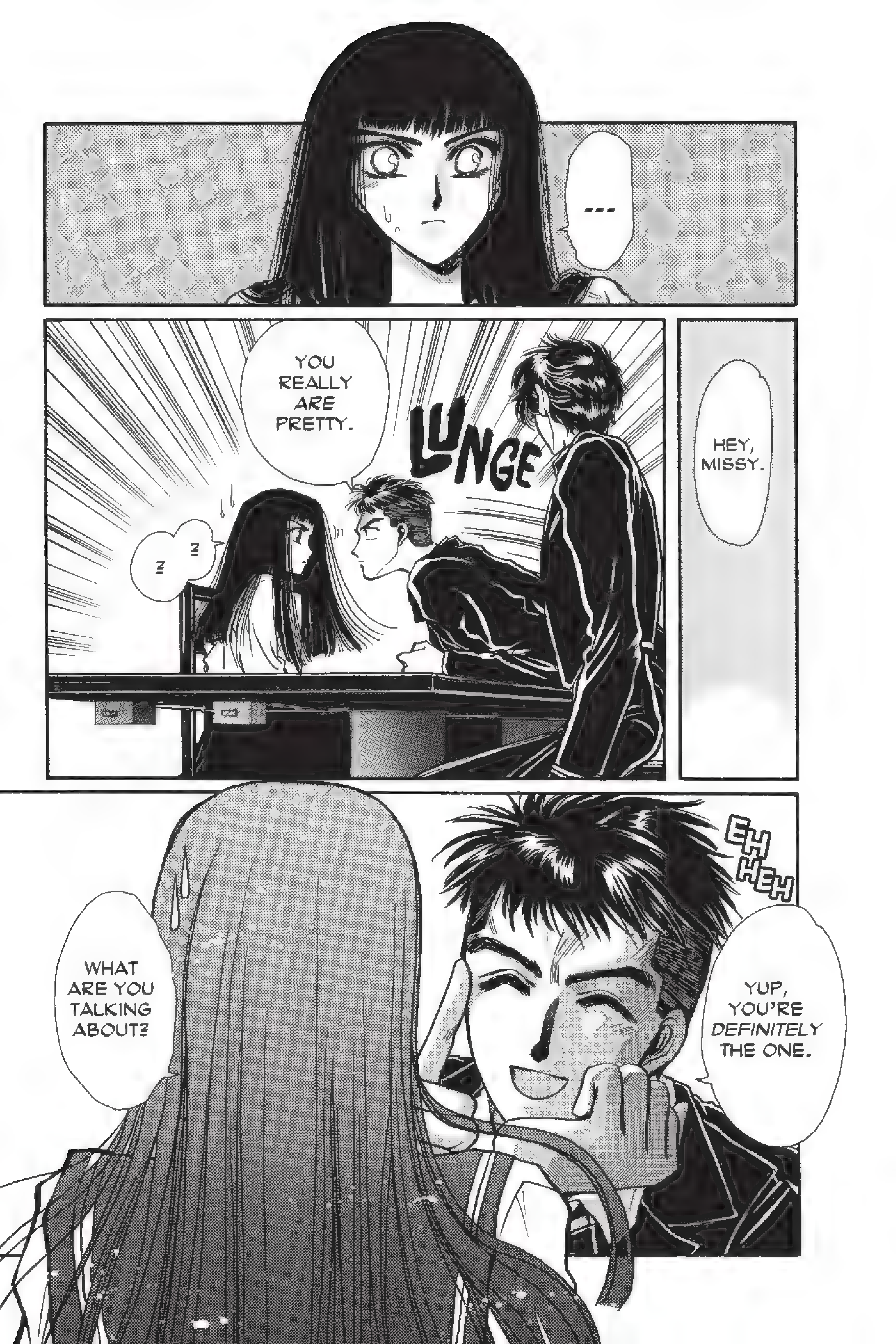

THEN ...
...IS THAT THE REASON WHY...
...SHE BURNED TO DEATH?
I DON'T THINK SO.
YOU LOST YOUR MOTHER IN A FIRE?
GRRP
YEAH ...
WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?
TWO WEEKS AGO...

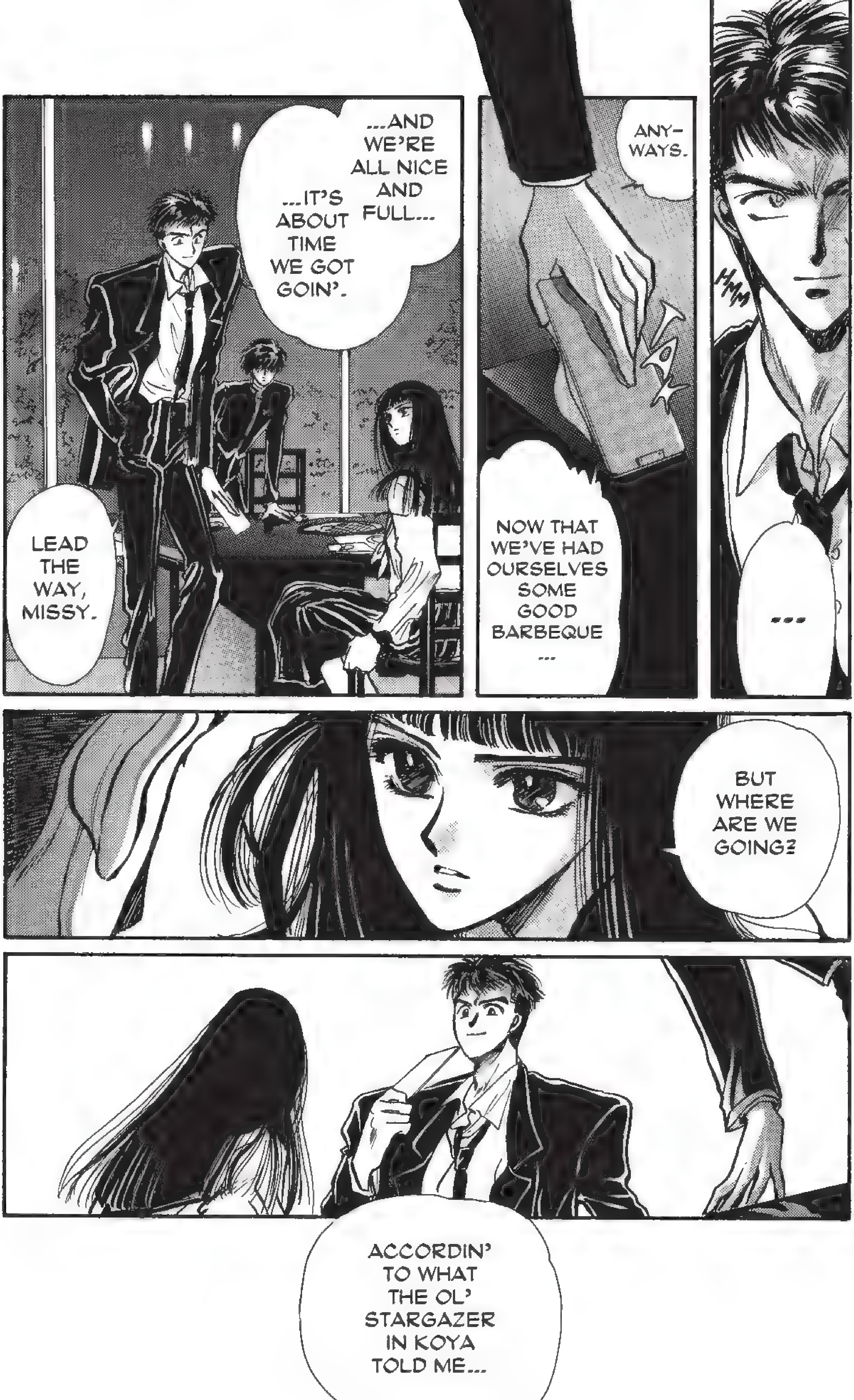

IF SHE WAS...
...BOTH A MEMBER OF THE MAGAMI CLAN AND A WOMAN POWERFUL ENOUGH TO BE THE MOTHER OF THE KAMUI ...
...THEN IT FOLLOWS THAT SHE MUST HAVE BEEN SOMEONE'S SHADOW SACRIFICE.
BUT WHOSE ...?

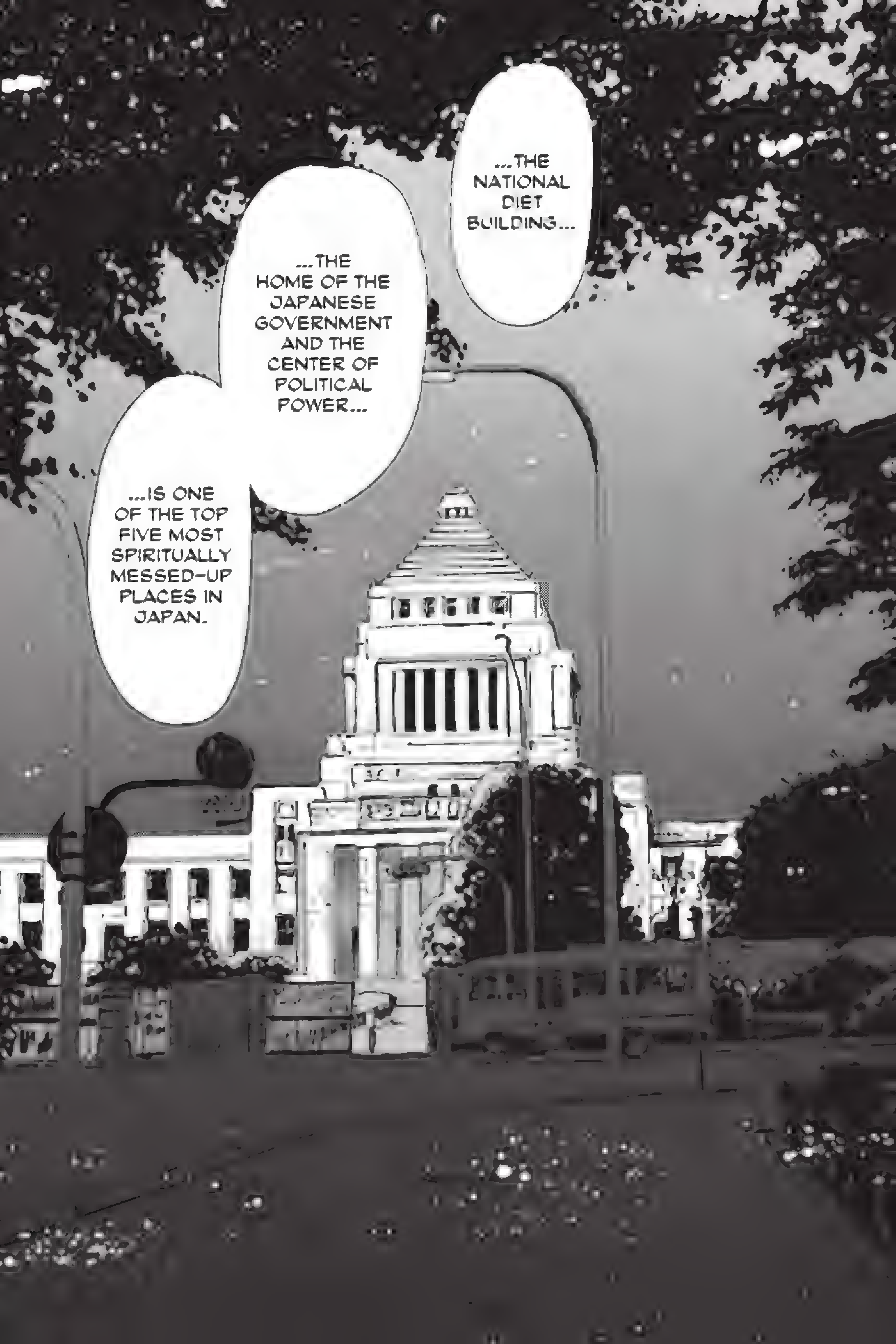

YOUR MOTHER WAS PROTECTING SOMEONE WHO ABSOLUTELY MUST NOT BE KILLED.
SOMEONE HERE IN JAPAN.
BUT IF YOUR MOTHER, AS THE SHADOW SACRIFICE, DIED ENVELOPED IN FLAMES...
...THEN THE PERSON WHO CAST THE CURSE MUST HAVE SUFFERED SOMETHING SIMILAR IN THE BLOWBACK.
I AIN'T HEARD ABOUT ANYONE WITH *POWER* BEING BURNED RECENTLY.
I HAVEN'T HEARD ANY RUMORS EITHER.

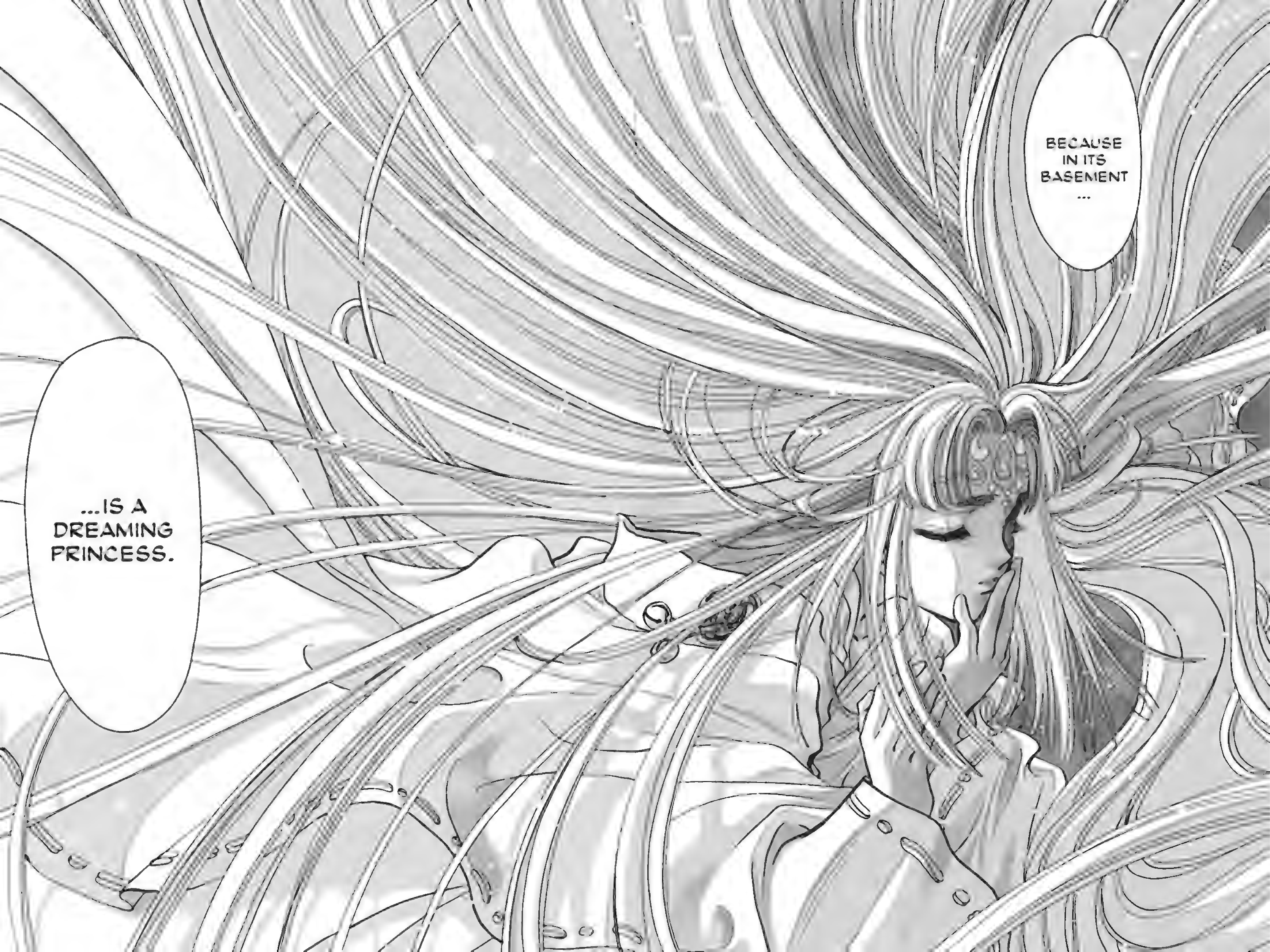

ONLY A HANDFUL OF FOLKS IN THE UNDERWORLD...
...ARE AWARE OF THE MAGAMI.
WE'RE TALKIN' *TOP-SECRET* STUFF HERE.
EVEN IN KOYA, MAYBE TEN PEOPLE TOTAL KNOW ABOUT THE SHADOW SACRIFICES.
MISSY.
SINCE YOU KNOW ABOUT THE MAGAMI CLAN I CAN'T HELP WONDERIN'...
WHAT'RE *YOU* HOOKED UP WITH?

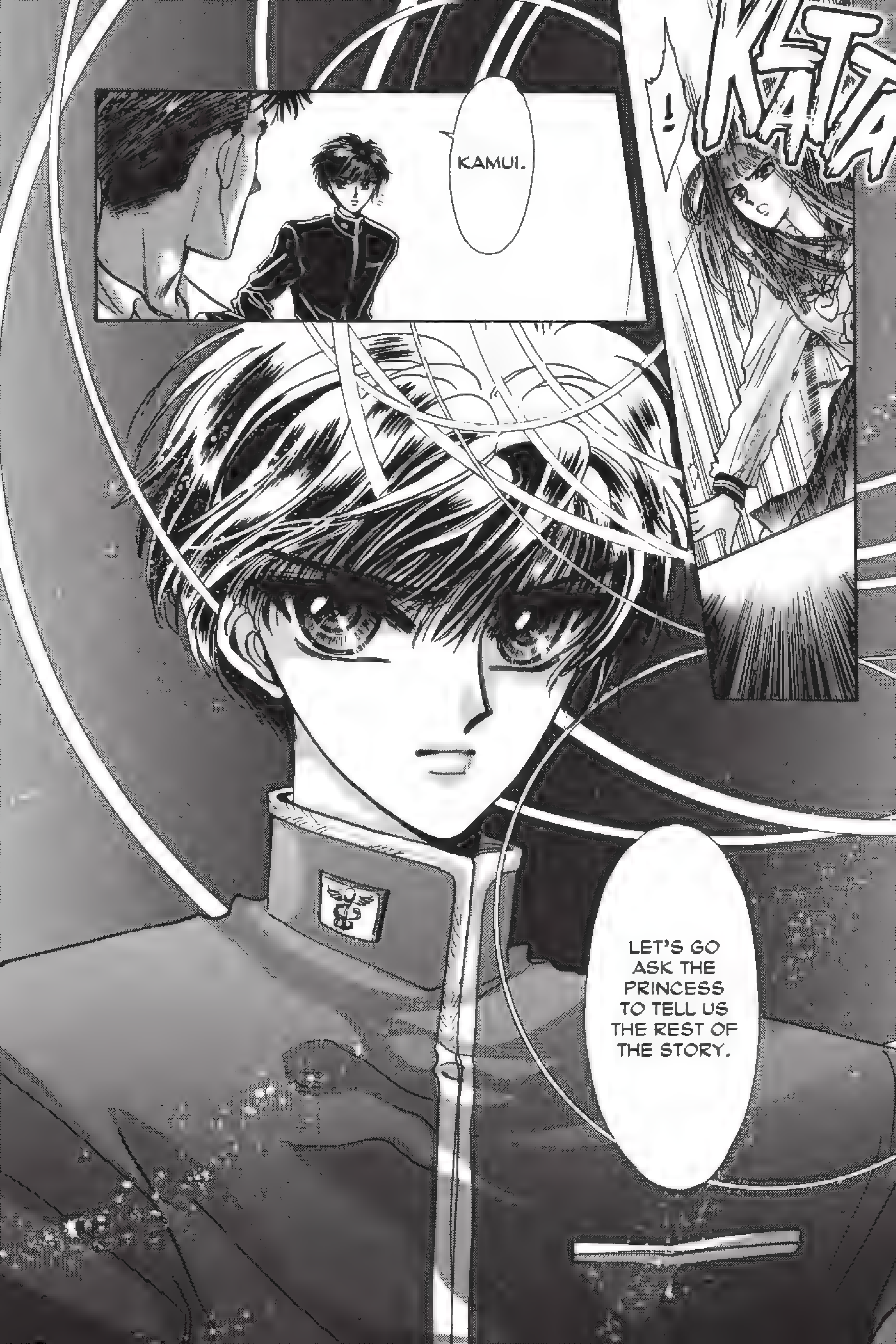

JAPAN'S GREATEST *ONMYOJI* ...
...ARE THE SUMERAGI CLAN.
BUT ACCORDIN' TO THE RUMORS, THE CURRENT LEADER...
...THE 13TH GENERATION HEAD OF THE FAMILY, IS A MAN.
SO IF YOU AIN'T FROM THE SUMERAGI, THEN I'M THINKIN'...
...YOU MUST BE FROM ISE.
DROP!

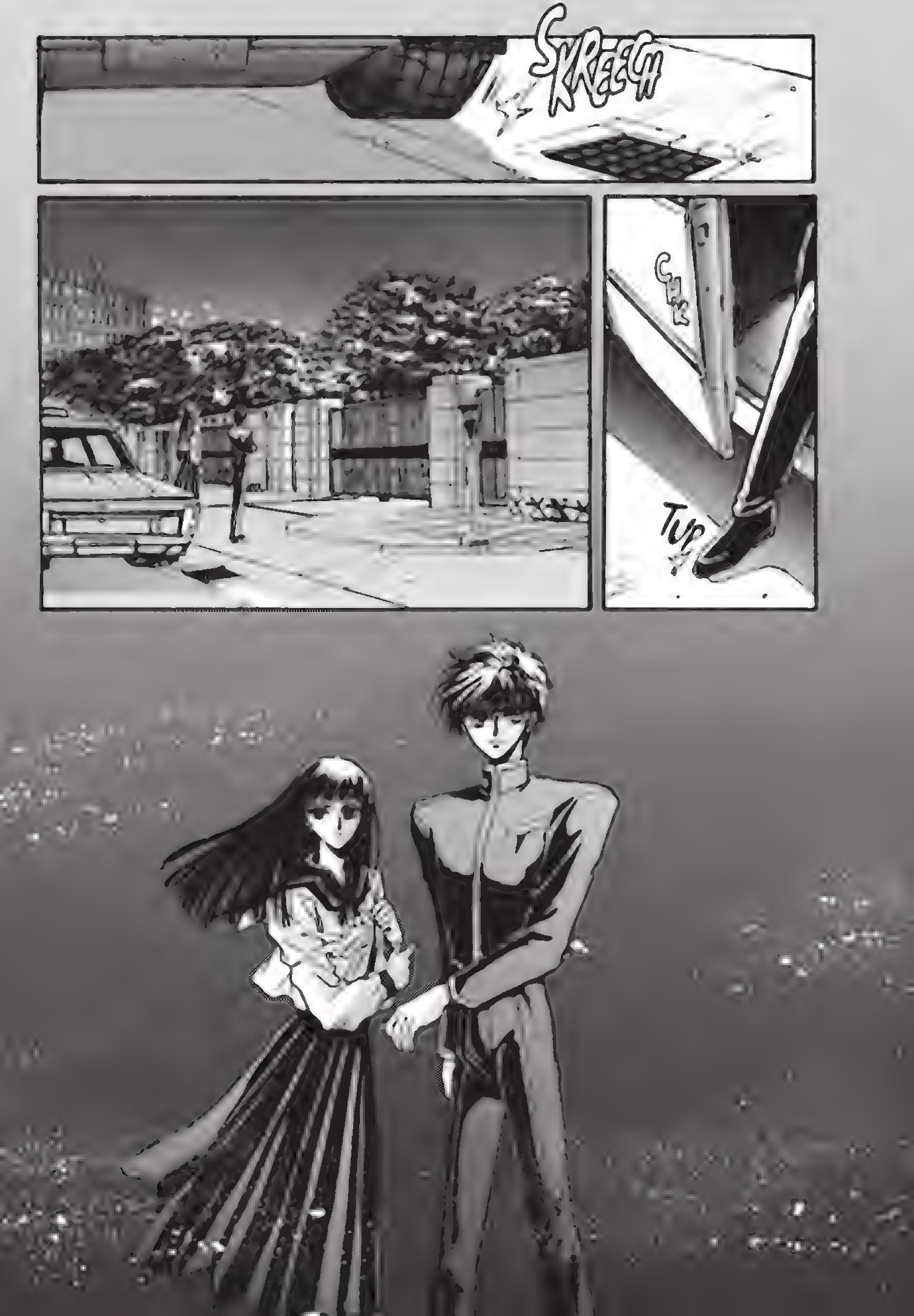

...
HEY, MISSY.
LUNGE
YOU REALLY *ARE* PRETTY.
? ?
EH HEH
YUP, YOU'RE *DEFINITELY* THE ONE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

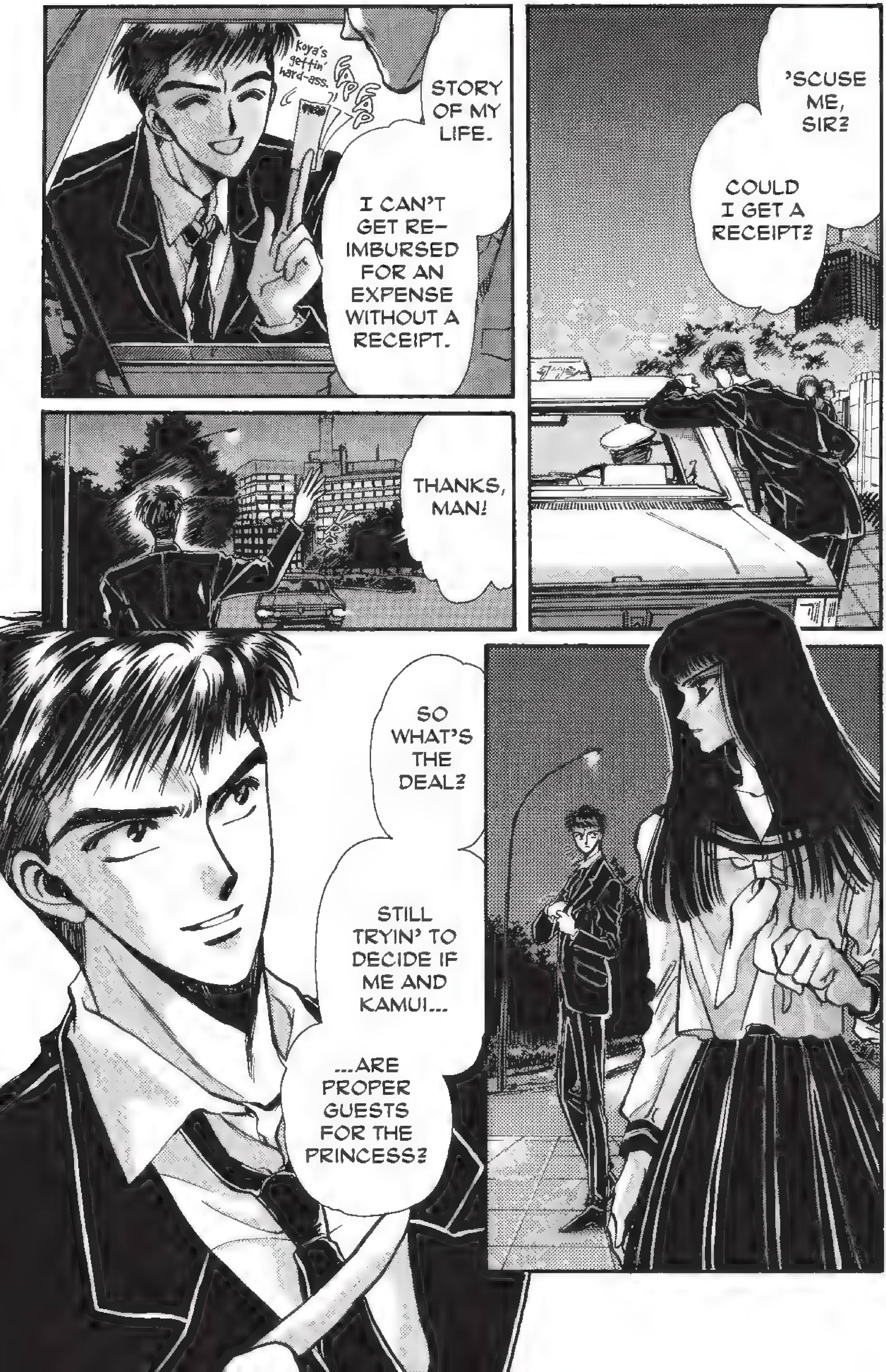

HMM
...
ANY-WAYS.
NOW THAT WE'VE HAD OURSELVES SOME GOOD BARBEQUE ...
...AND WE'RE ALL NICE AND FULL...
...IT'S ABOUT TIME WE GOT GOIN'.
LEAD THE WAY, MISSY.
BUT WHERE ARE WE GOING?
ACCORDIN' TO WHAT THE OL' STARGAZER IN KOYA TOLD ME...

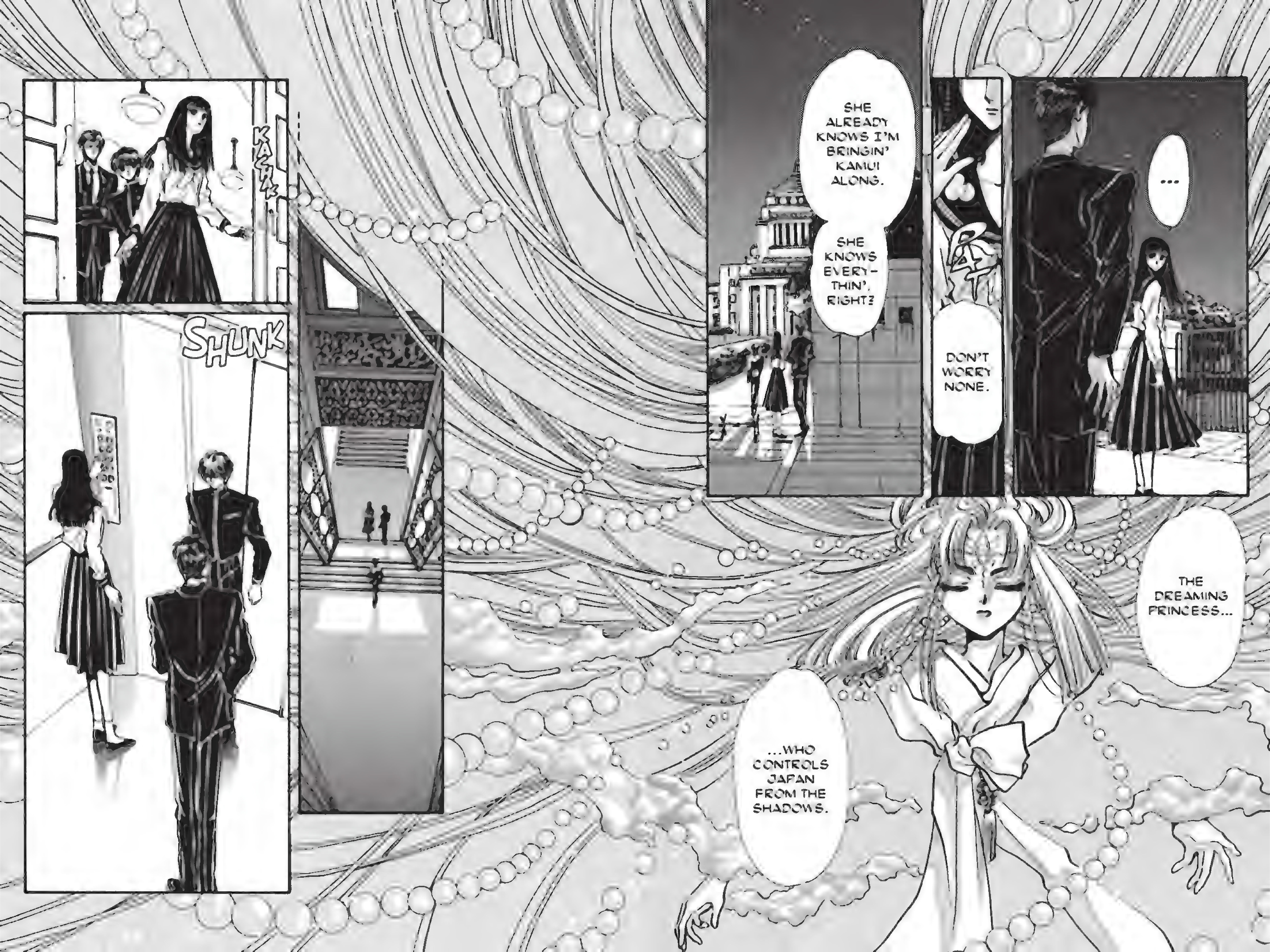

...THE NATIONAL DIET BUILDING...
...THE HOME OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND THE CENTER OF POLITICAL POWER...
...IS ONE OF THE TOP FIVE MOST SPIRITUALLY MESSED-UP PLACES IN JAPAN.

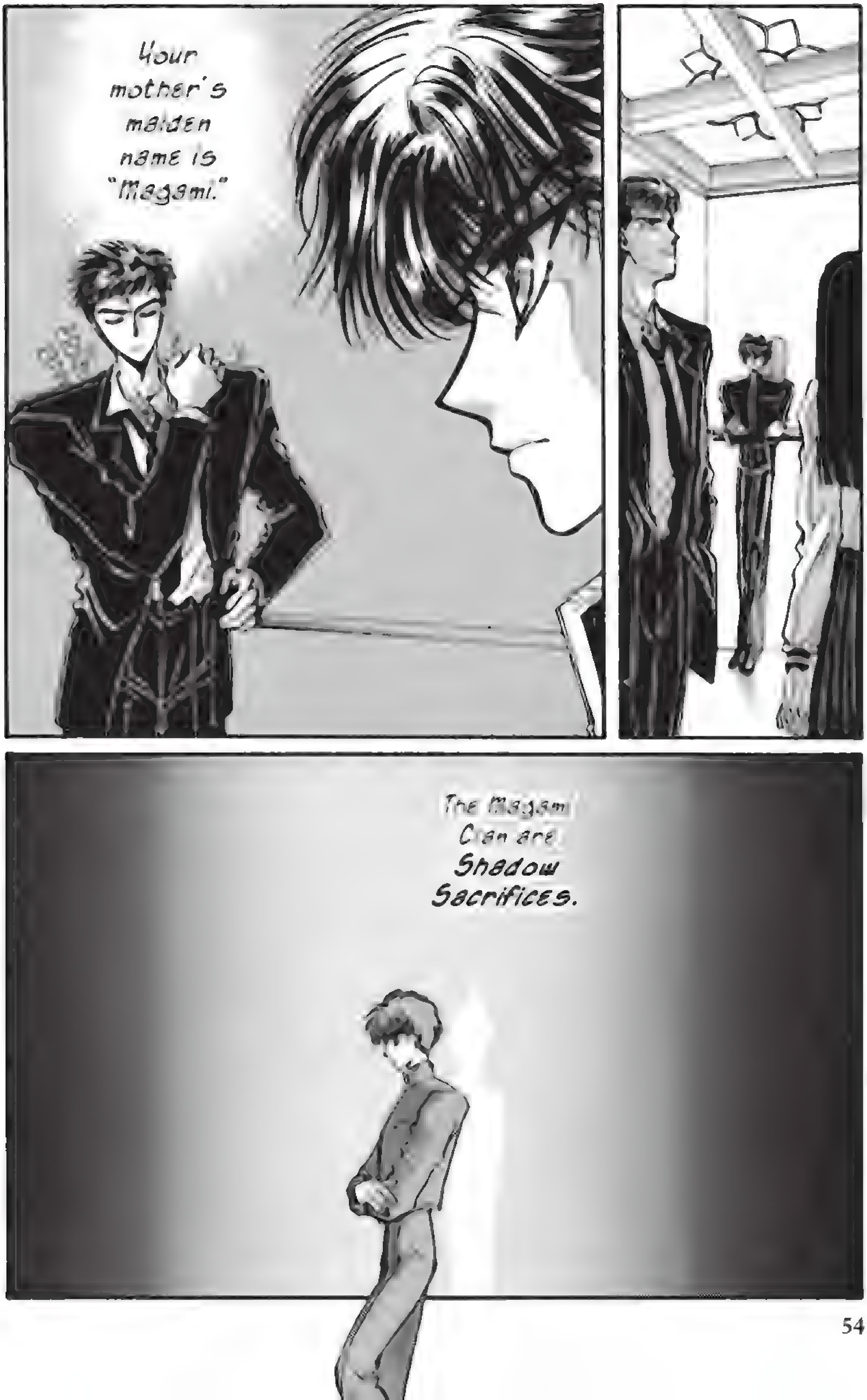

BECAUSE IN ITS BASEMENT ...
...IS A DREAMING PRINCESS.

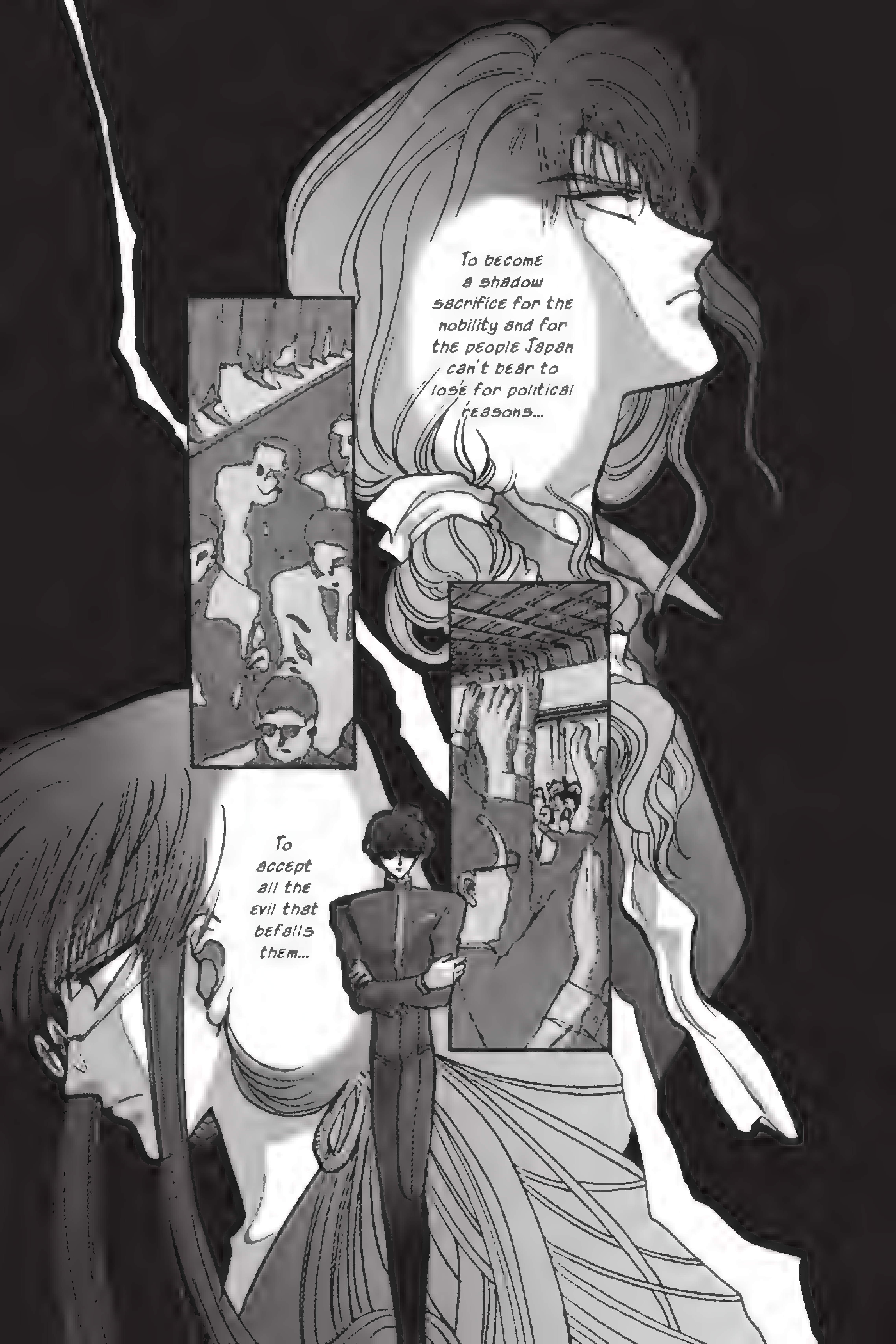

KATA
!
KAMUI.
LET'S GO ASK THE PRINCESS TO TELL US THE REST OF THE STORY.

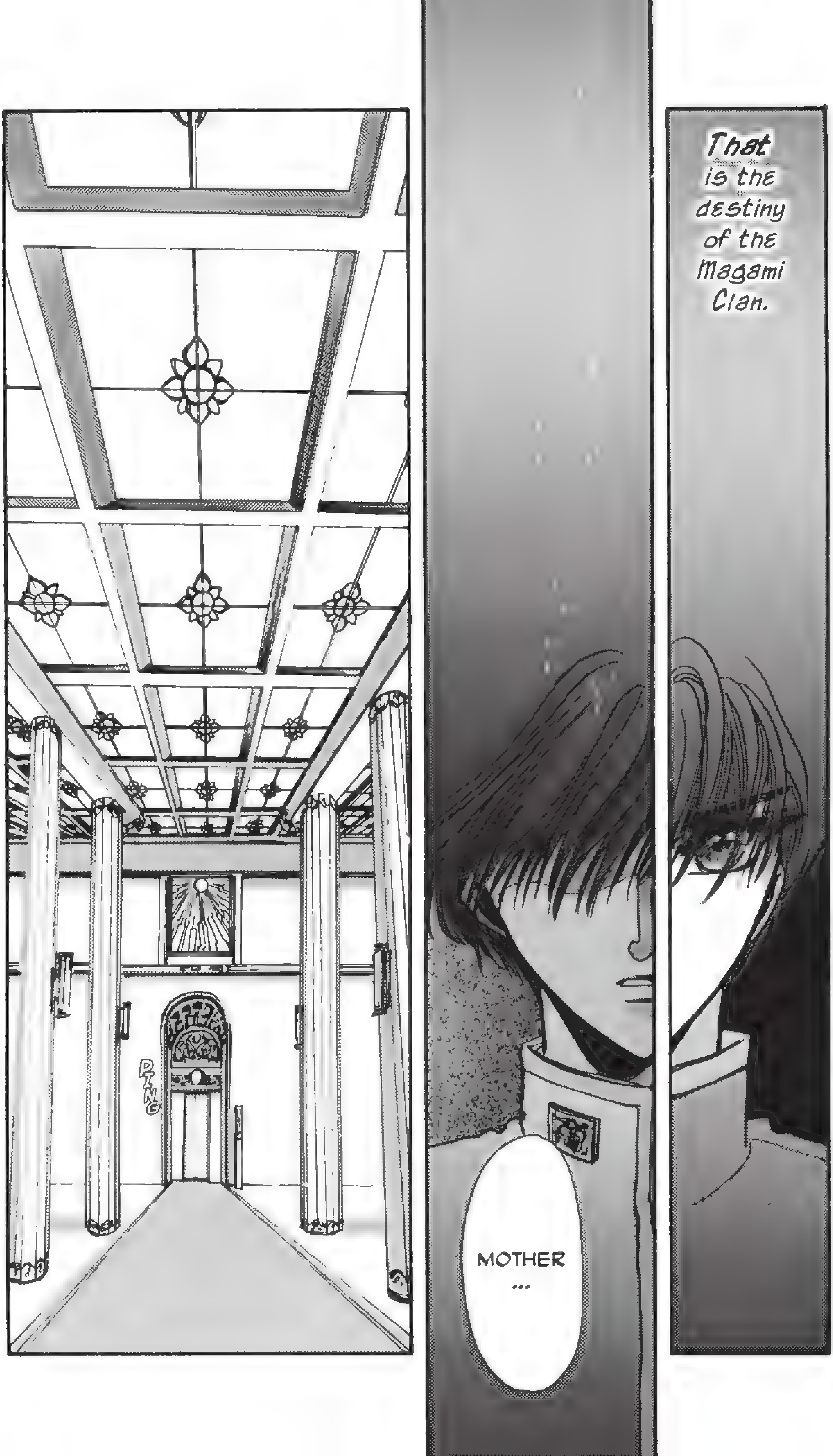

SKREECH
CHAK
TUP

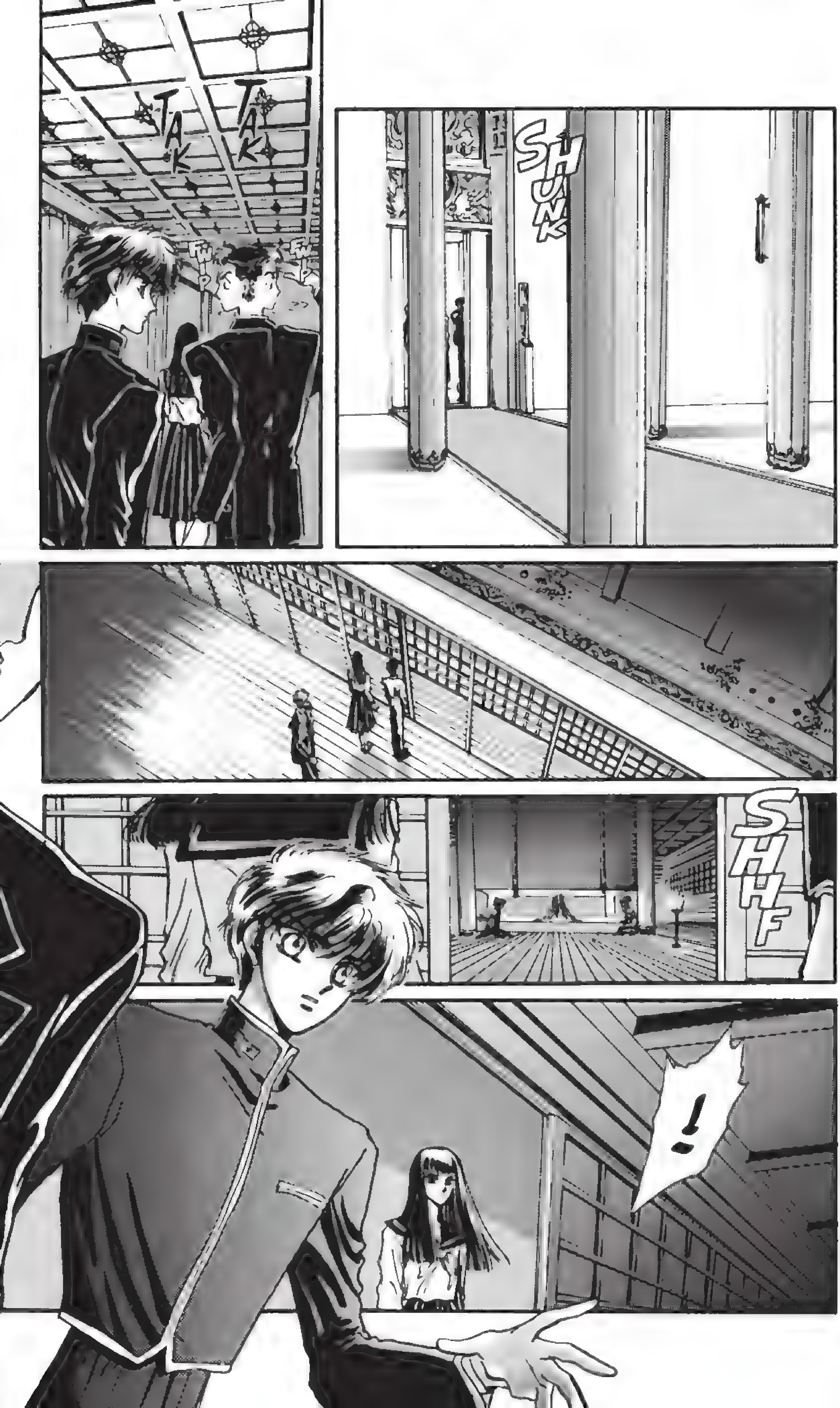

'SCUSE ME, SIR?
COULD I GET A RECEIPT?
STORY OF MY LIFE.
Koya's gettin' hard-ass.
FAP FAP
I CAN'T GET REIMBURSED FOR AN EXPENSE WITHOUT A RECEIPT.
THANKS, MAN!
SO WHAT'S THE DEAL?
STILL TRYIN' TO DECIDE IF ME AND KAMUI...
...ARE PROPER GUESTS FOR THE PRINCESS?

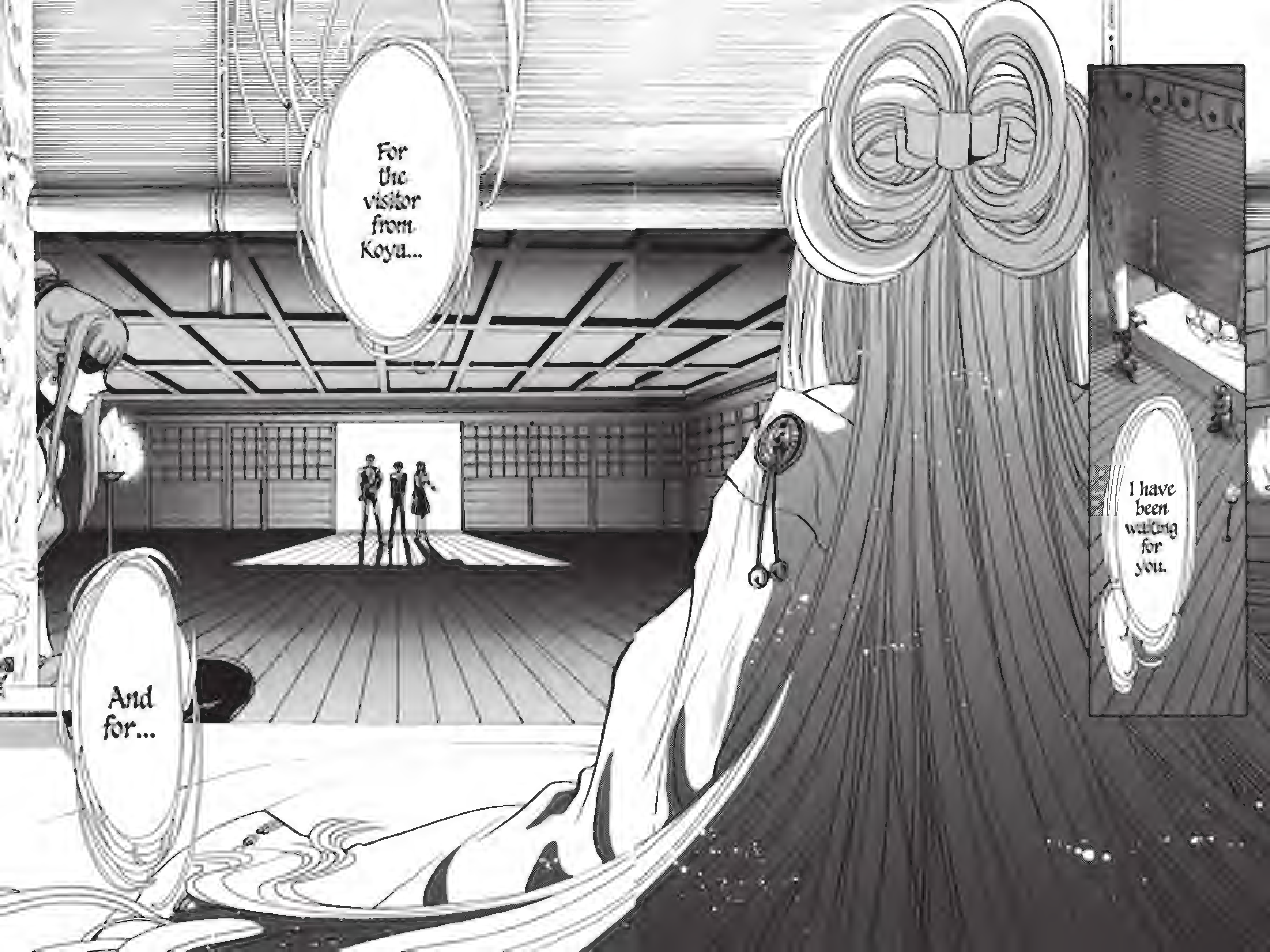

...
PAT
DON'T WORRY NONE.
SHE ALREADY KNOWS I'M BRINGIN' KAMUI ALONG.
SHE KNOWS EVERYTHIN', RIGHT?
THE DREAMING PRINCESS...
...WHO CONTROLS JAPAN FROM THE SHADOWS.
KASHAK
SHUNK

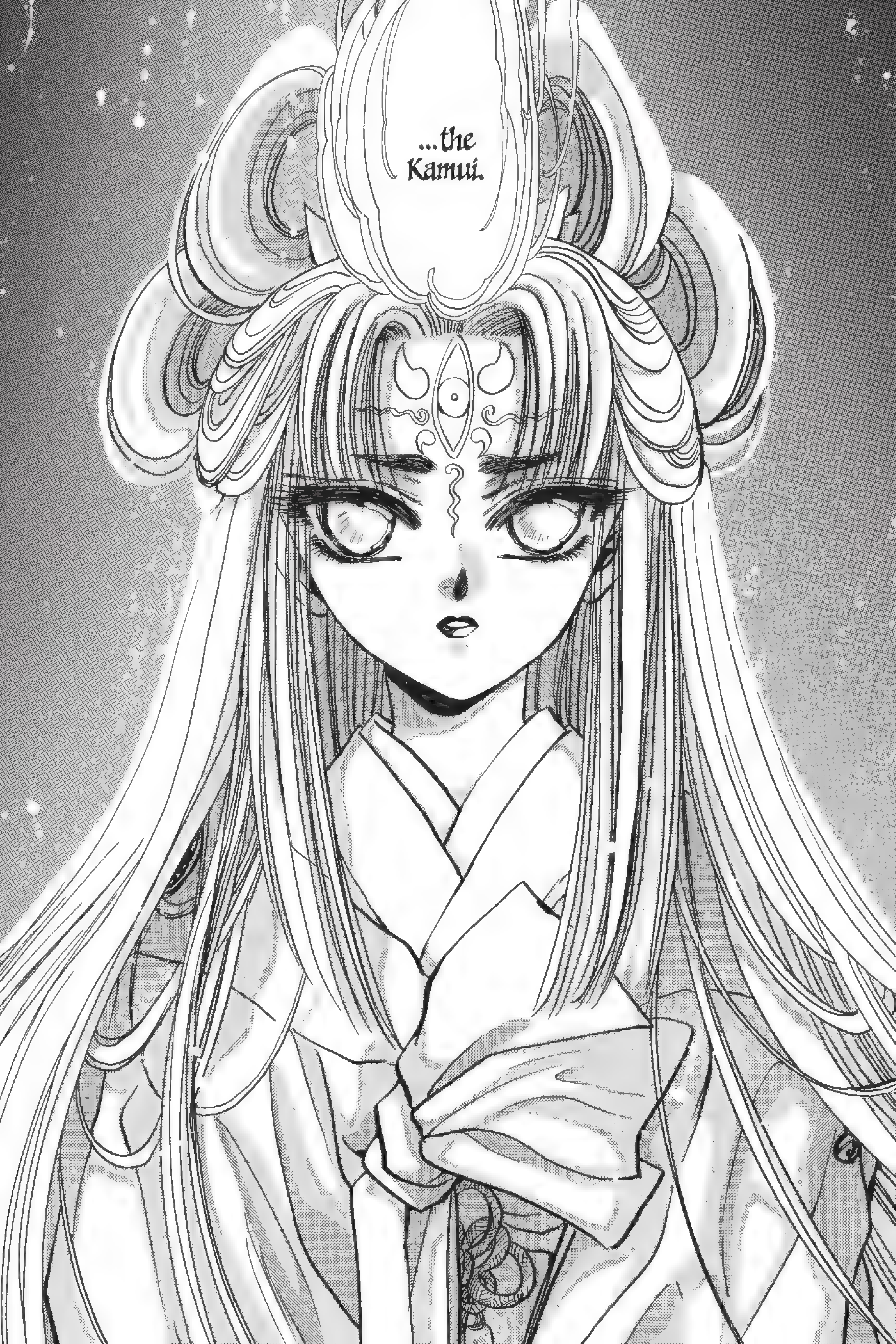

Your mother's maiden name is "Magami."
The Magami Clan are Shadow Sacrifices.

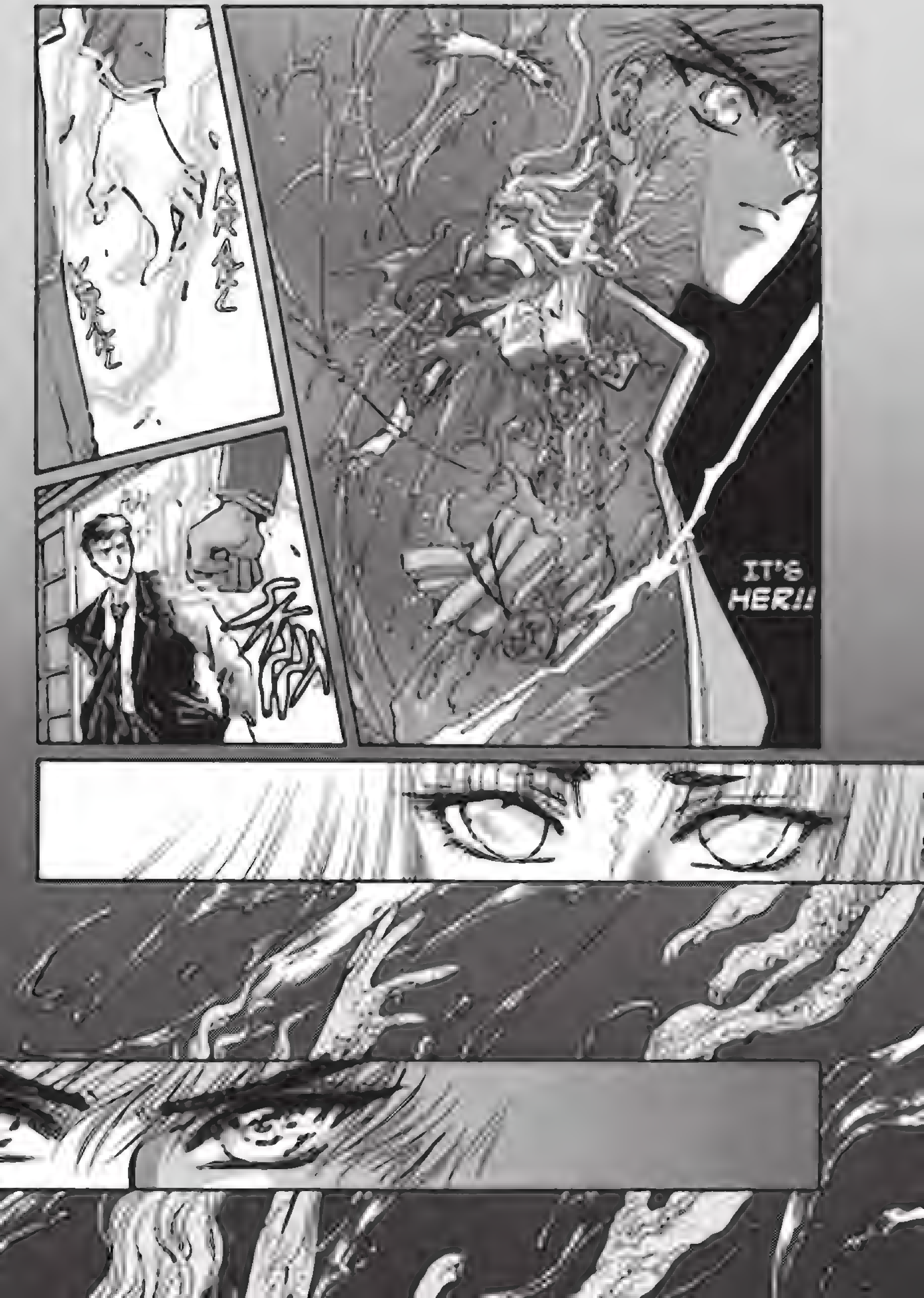

To become a shadow sacrifice for the nobility and for the people Japan can't bear to lose for political reasons...
To accept all the evil that befalls them...

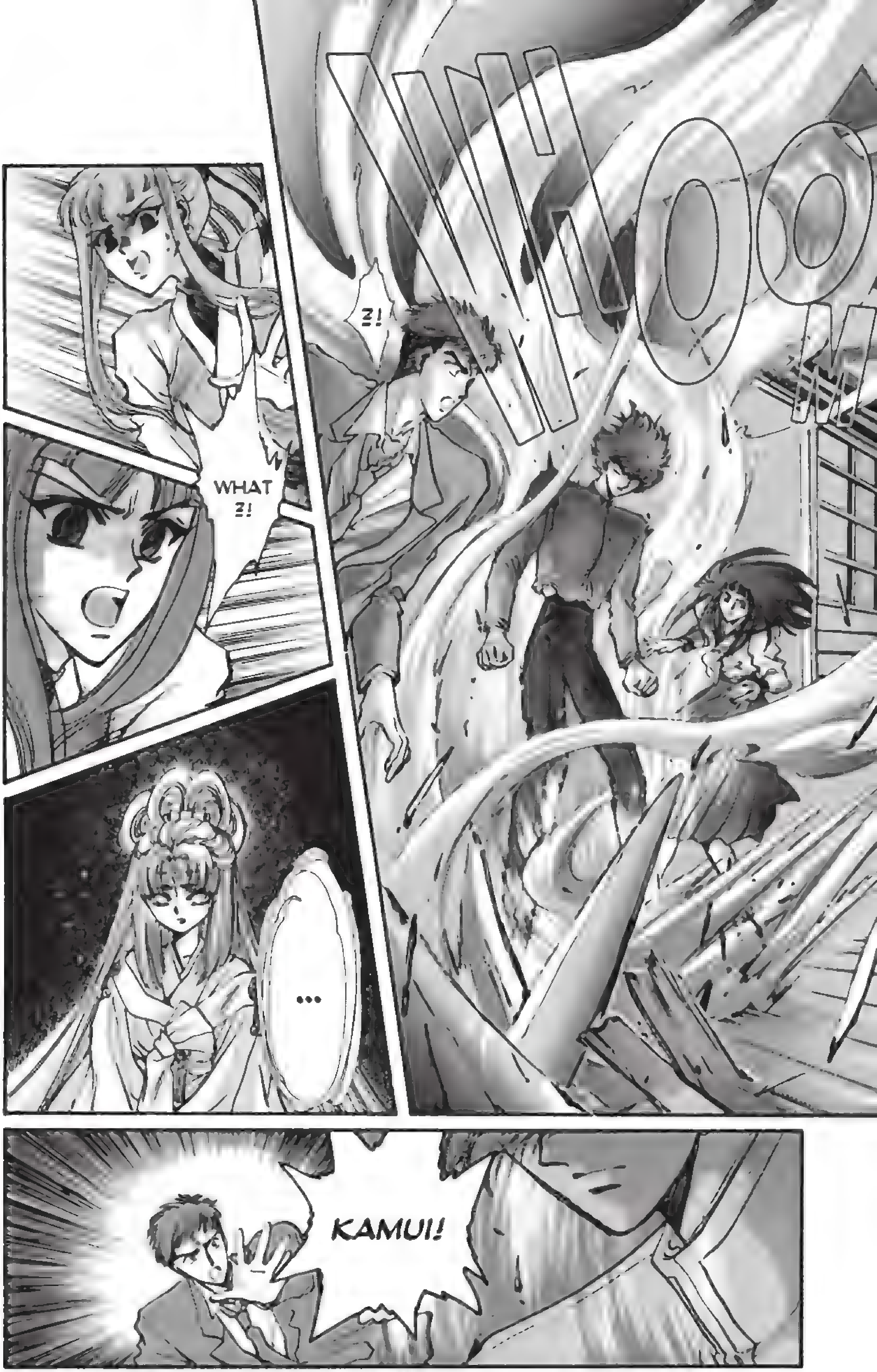

That is the destiny of the Magami Clan.
MOTHER ...
PING

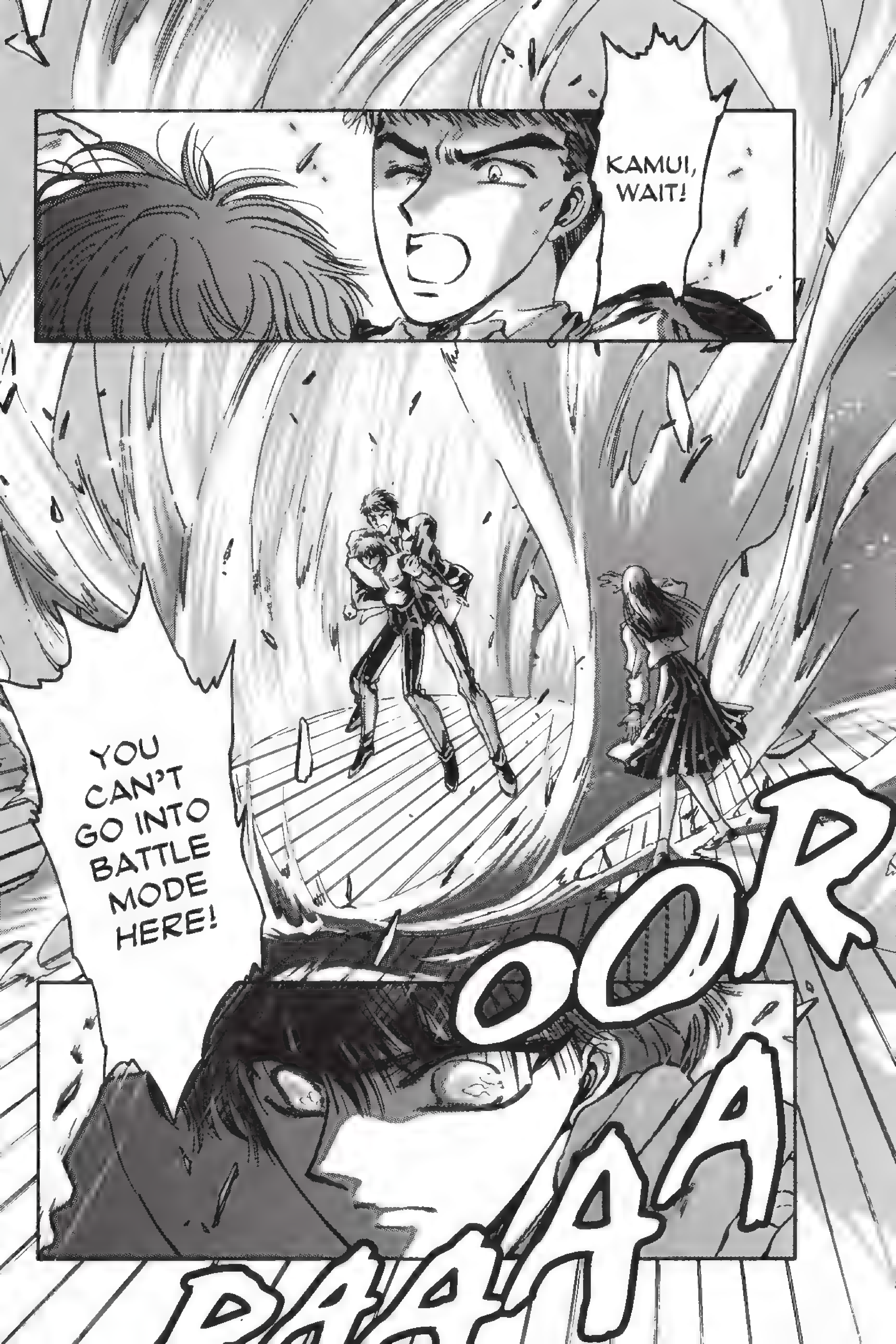

SHUNK
TAK TAK
FWP FWP
SHHF
!

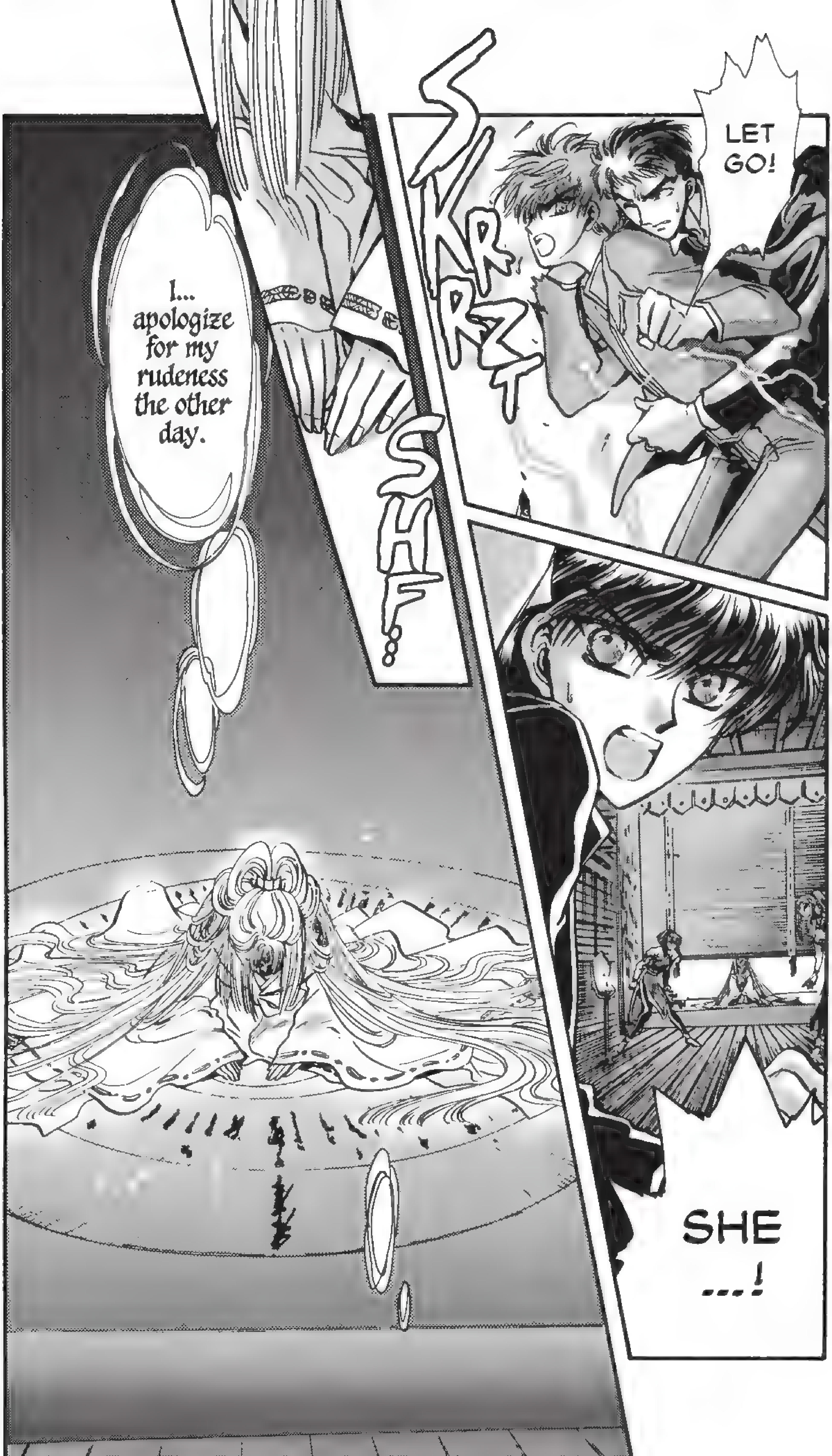

I have been waiting for you.
For the visitor from Koya...
And for...

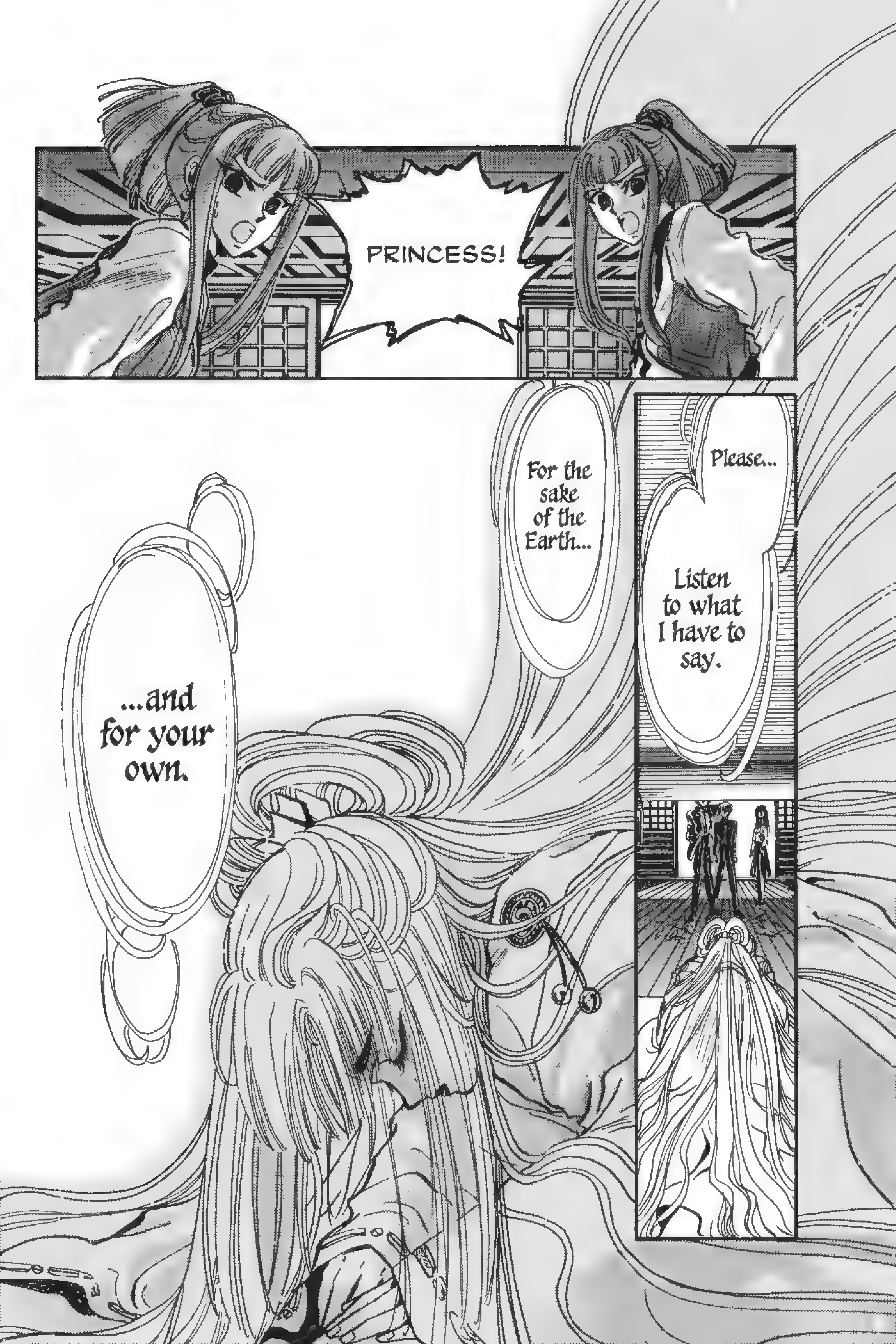

...the Kamui.

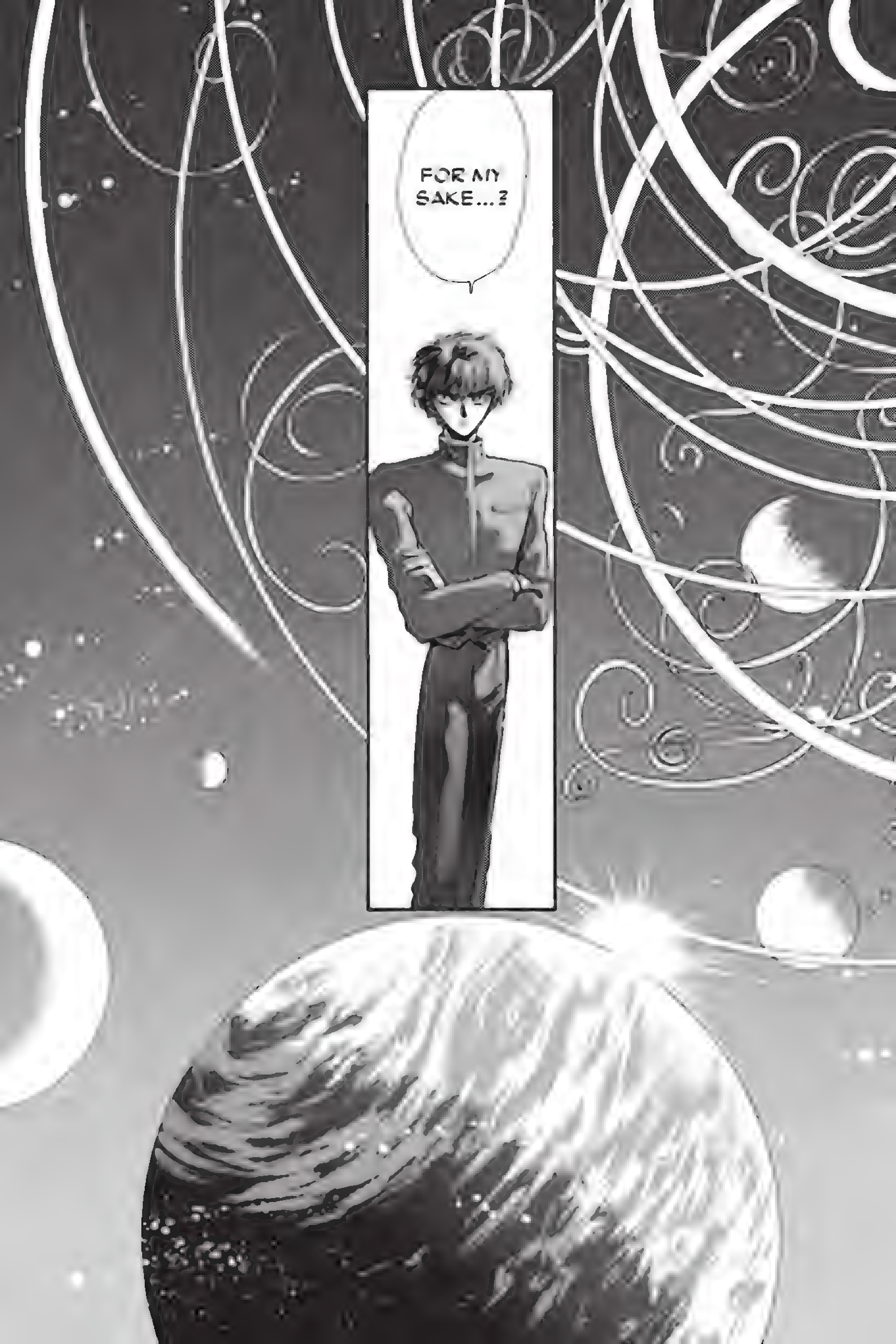

IT'S HER!!

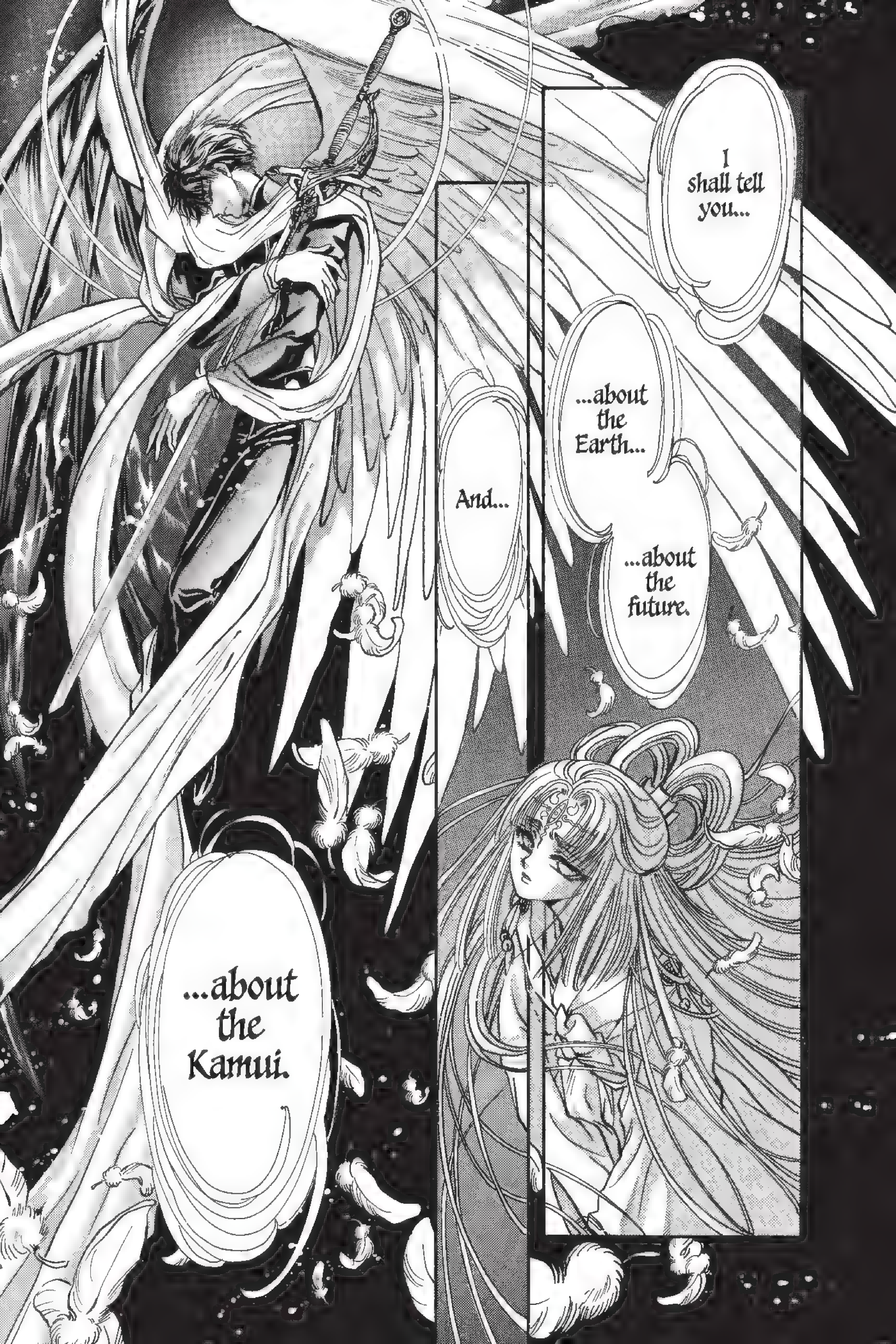

WHOOOM
?!
WHAT ?!
...
KAMUI!

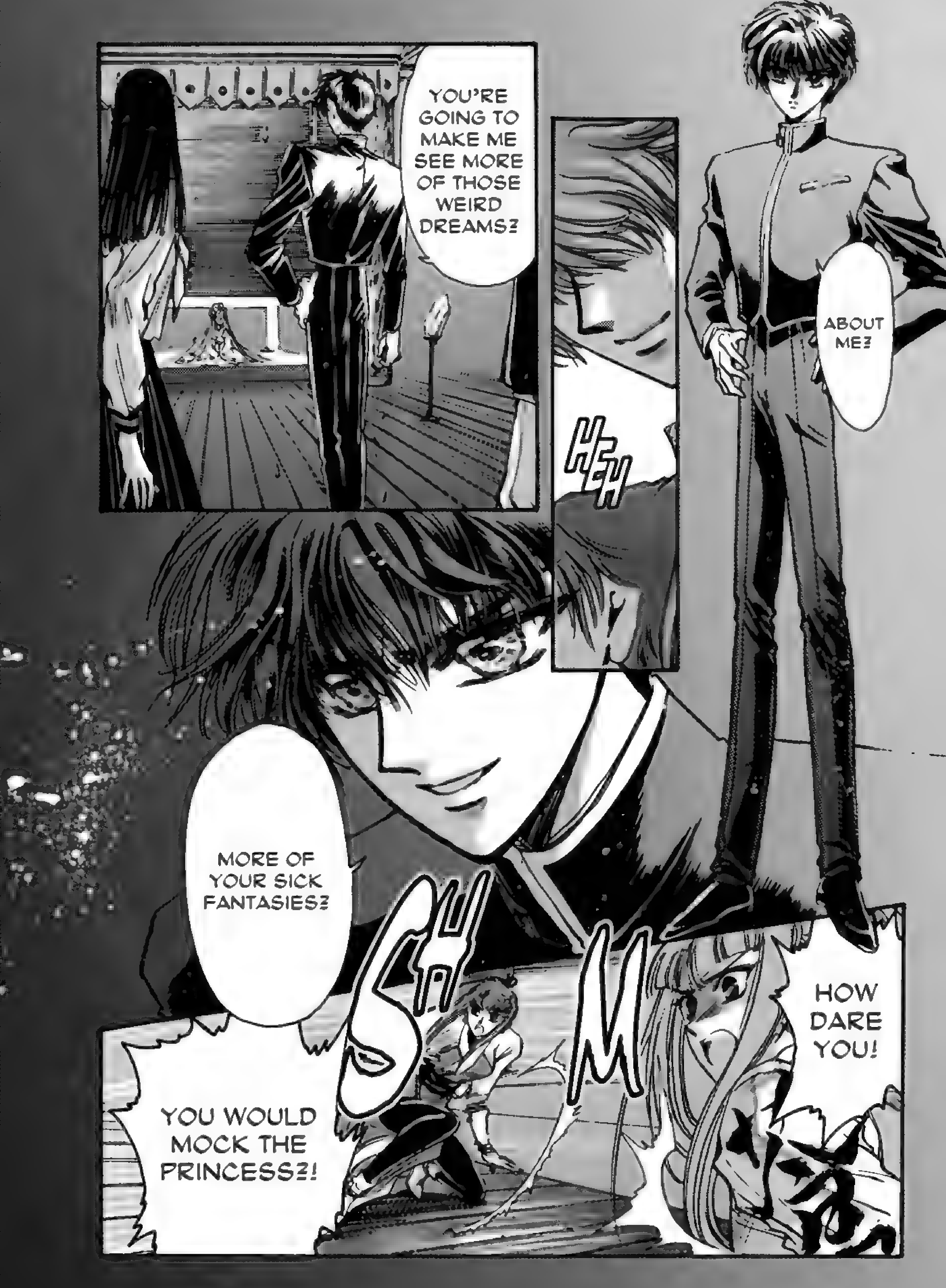

KAMUI, WAIT!
YOU CAN'T GO INTO BATTLE MODE HERE!
OOR
AA
RAA

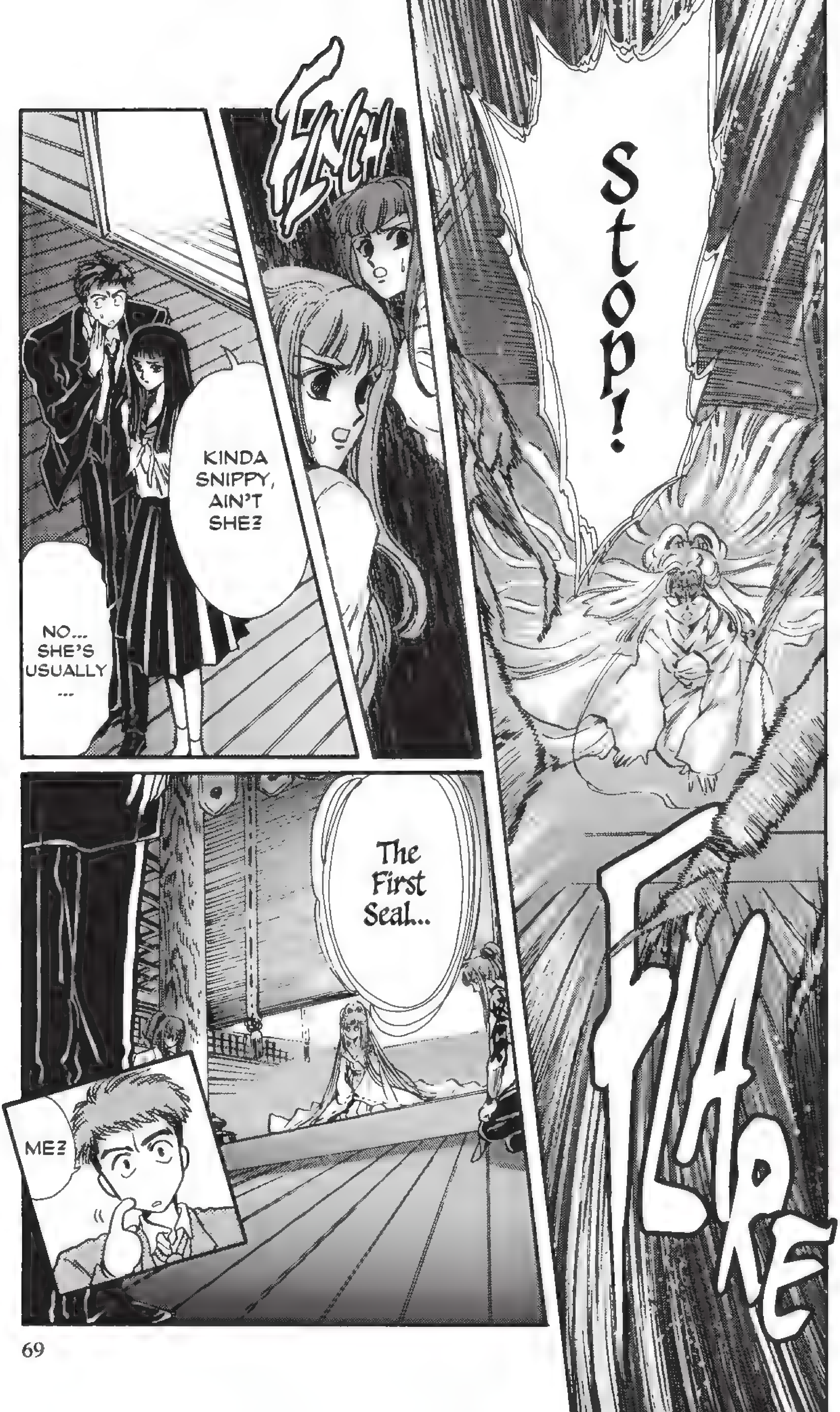

LET GO!
SKRZT
SHHF...
SHE ...!
I... apologize for my rudeness the other day.

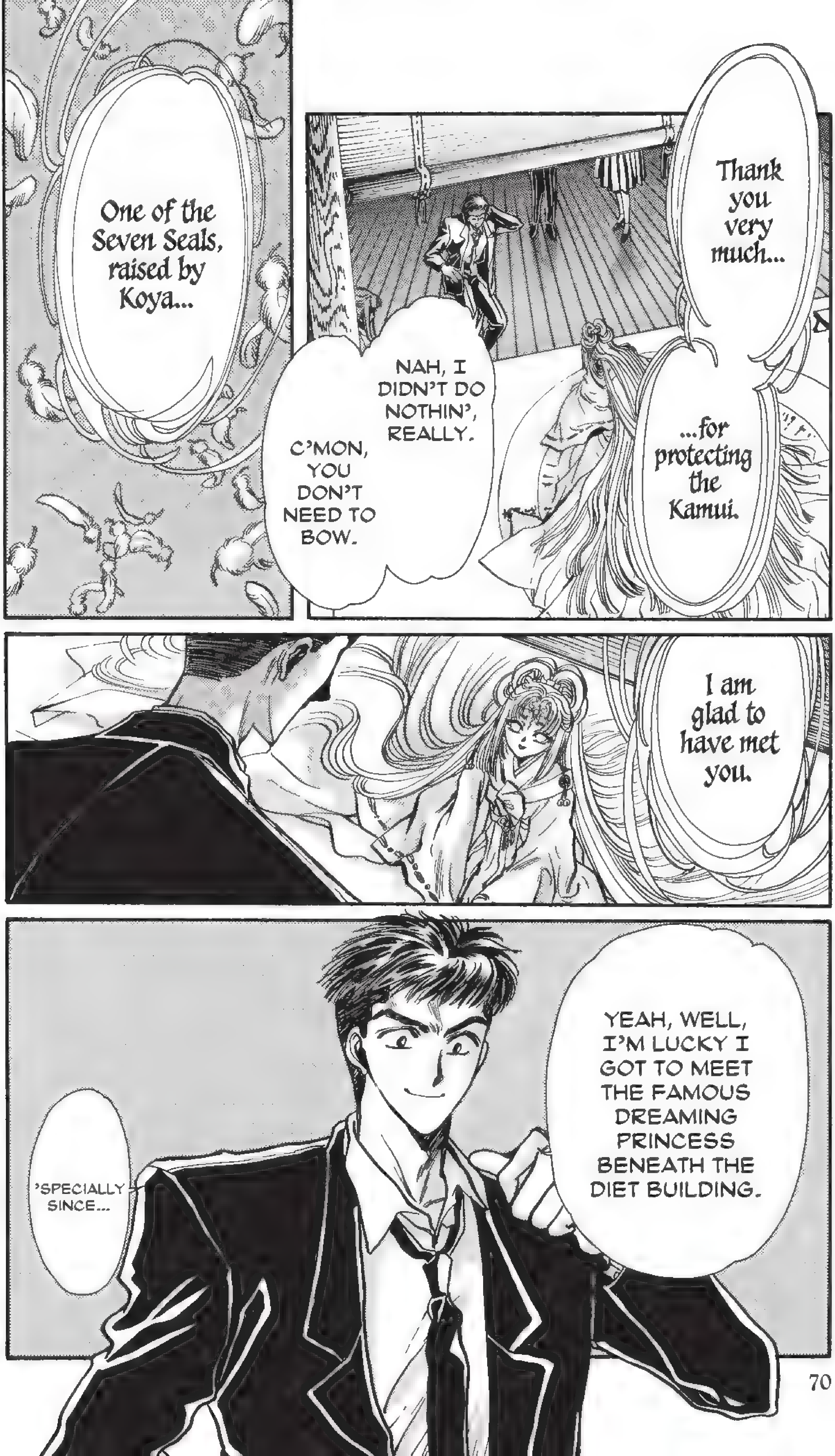

PRINCESS!
Please...
Listen to what I have to say.
For the sake of the Earth...
...and for your own.

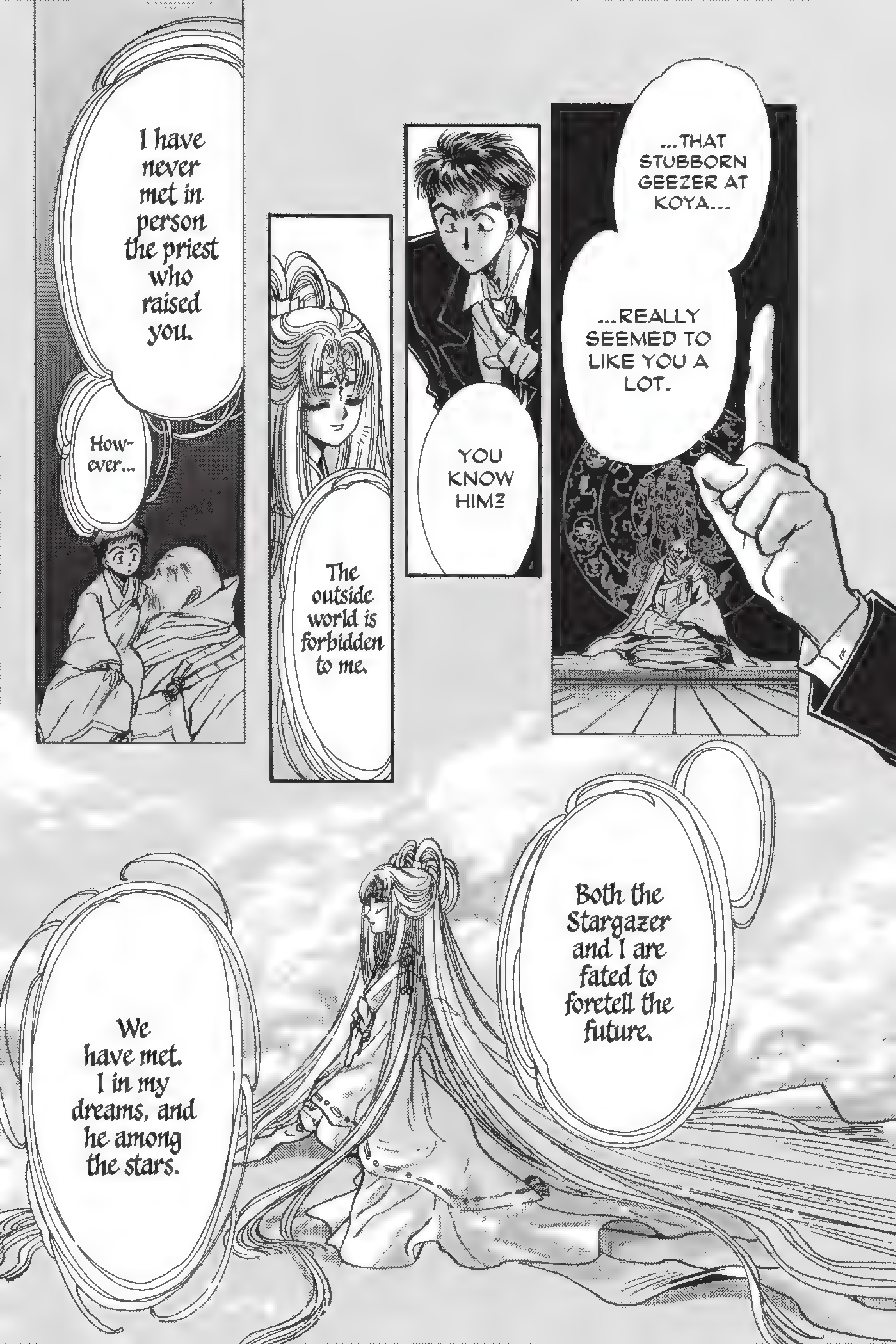

FOR MY SAKE...?

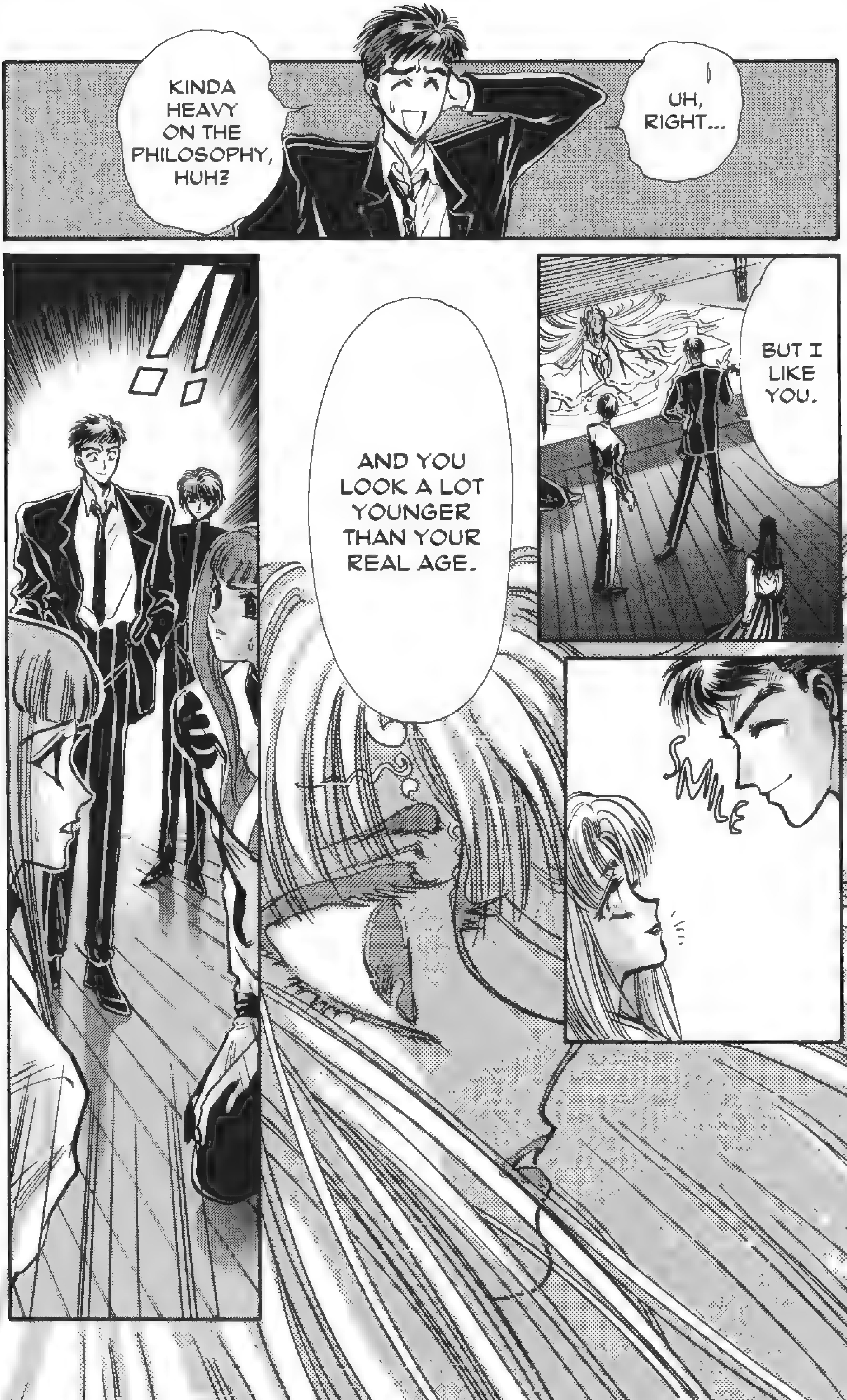

I shall tell you...
...about the Earth...
...about the future.
And...
...about the Kamui.

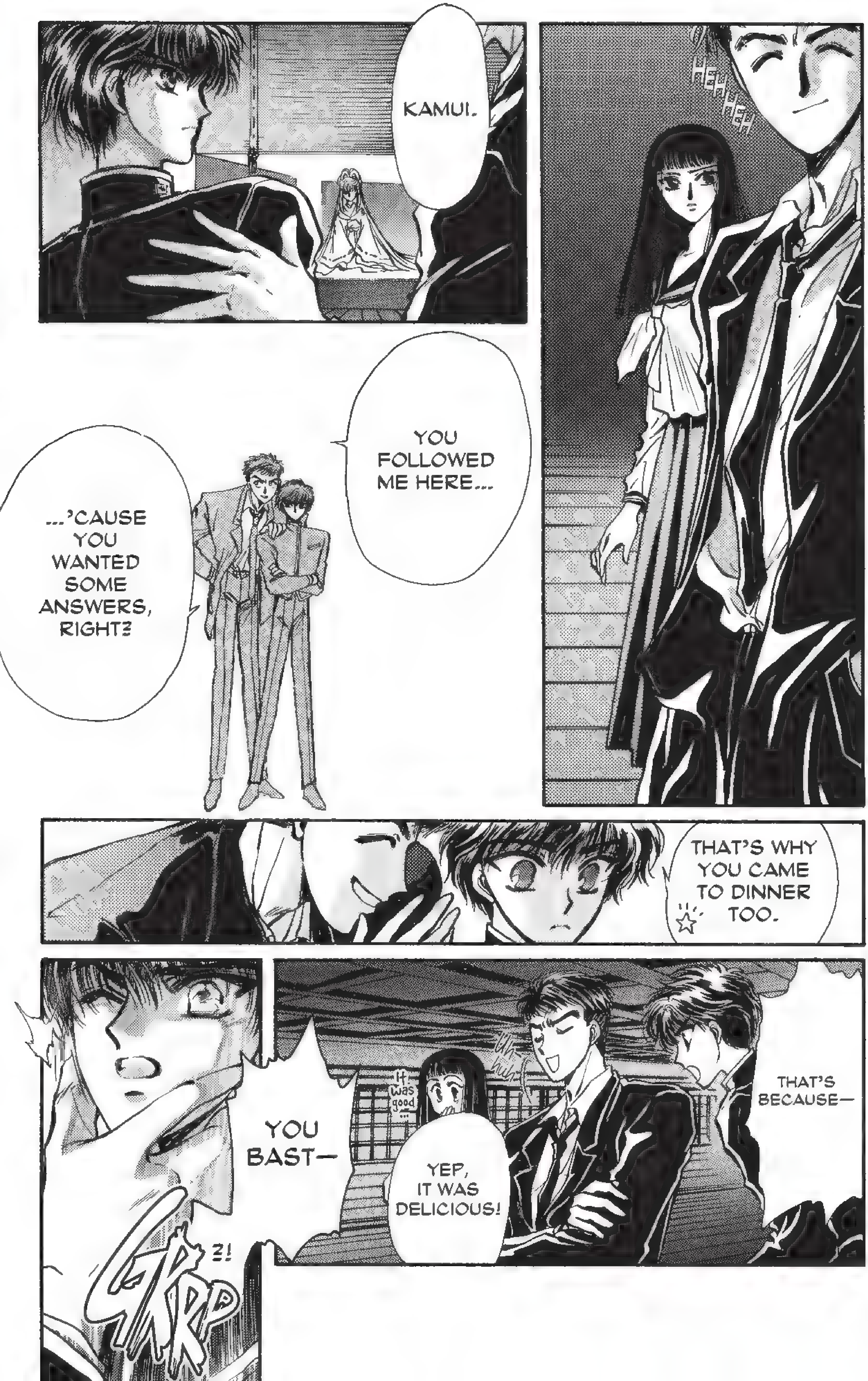

YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE ME SEE MORE OF THOSE WEIRD DREAMS?
ABOUT ME?
HEH
MORE OF YOUR SICK FANTASIES?
HOW DARE YOU!
SCH
M
YOU WOULD MOCK THE PRINCESS?!

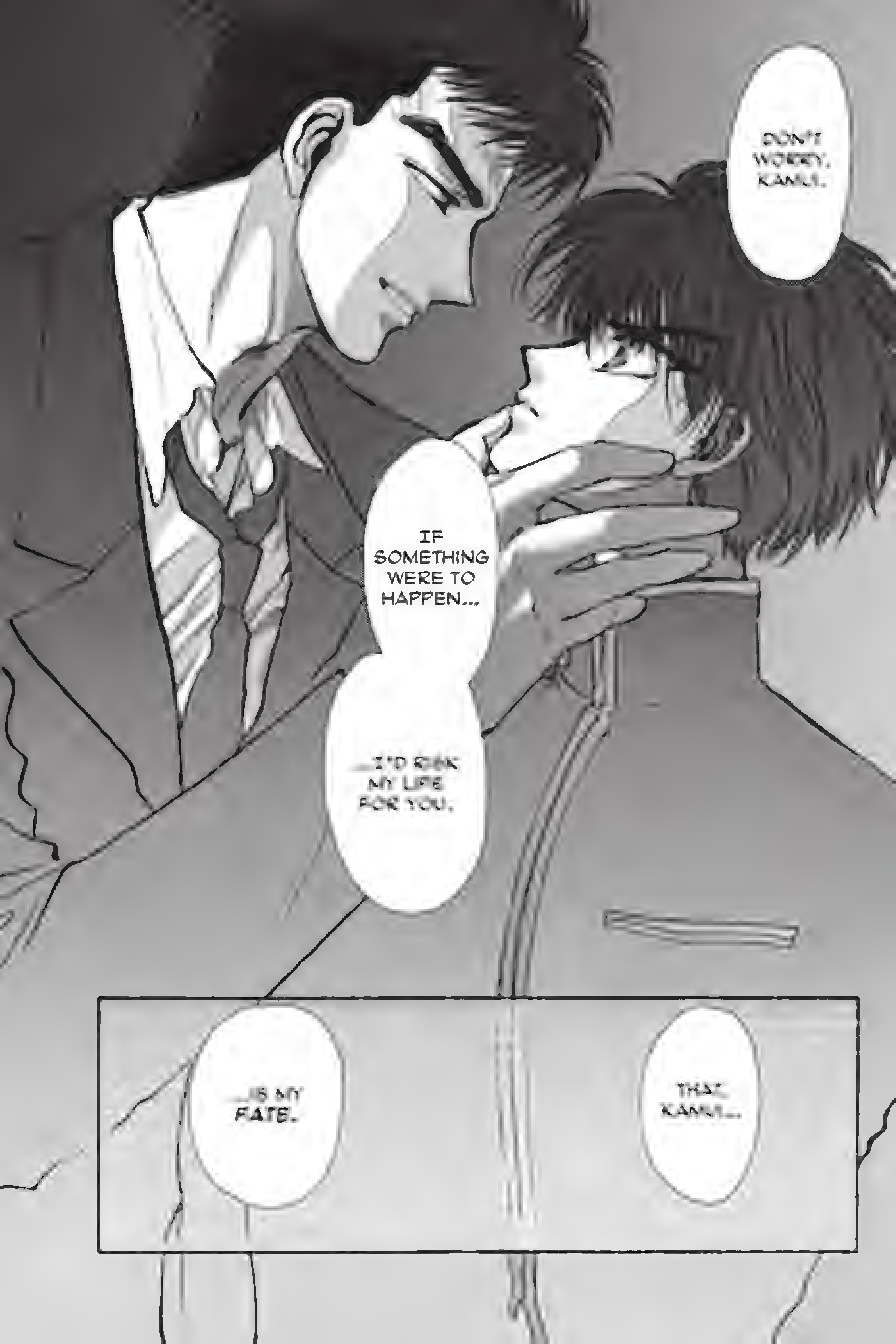

Stop!
FLARE
ELCH
KINDA SNIPPY, AIN'T SHE?
NO... SHE'S USUALLY ...
The First Seal...
ME?

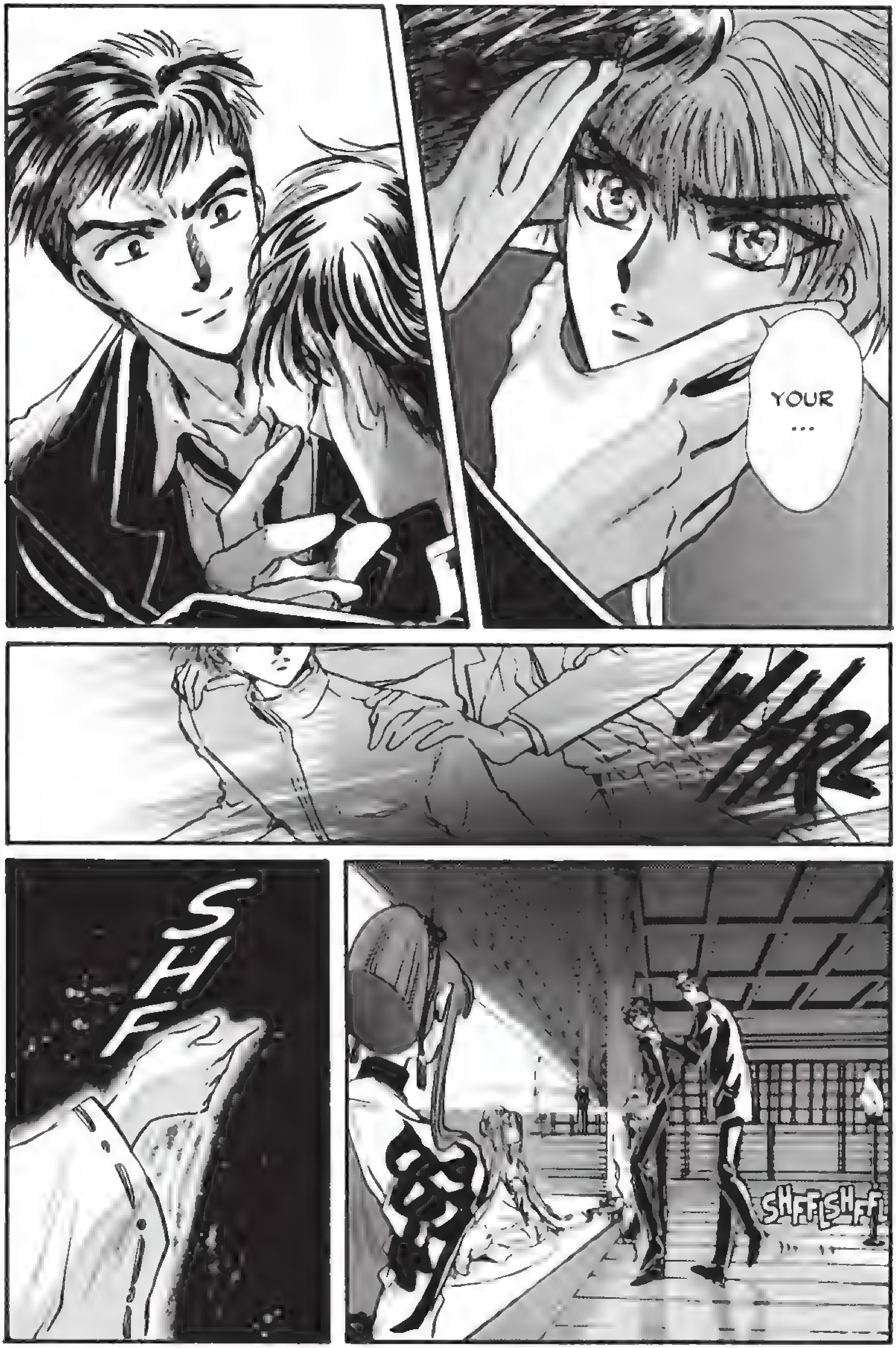

Thank you very much...
...for protecting the Kamui.
NAH, I DIDN'T DO NOTHIN', REALLY.
C'MON, YOU DON'T NEED TO BOW.
One of the Seven Seals, raised by Koya...
I am glad to have met you.
YEAH, WELL, I'M LUCKY I GOT TO MEET THE FAMOUS DREAMING PRINCESS BENEATH THE DIET BUILDING.
'SPECIALLY SINCE...

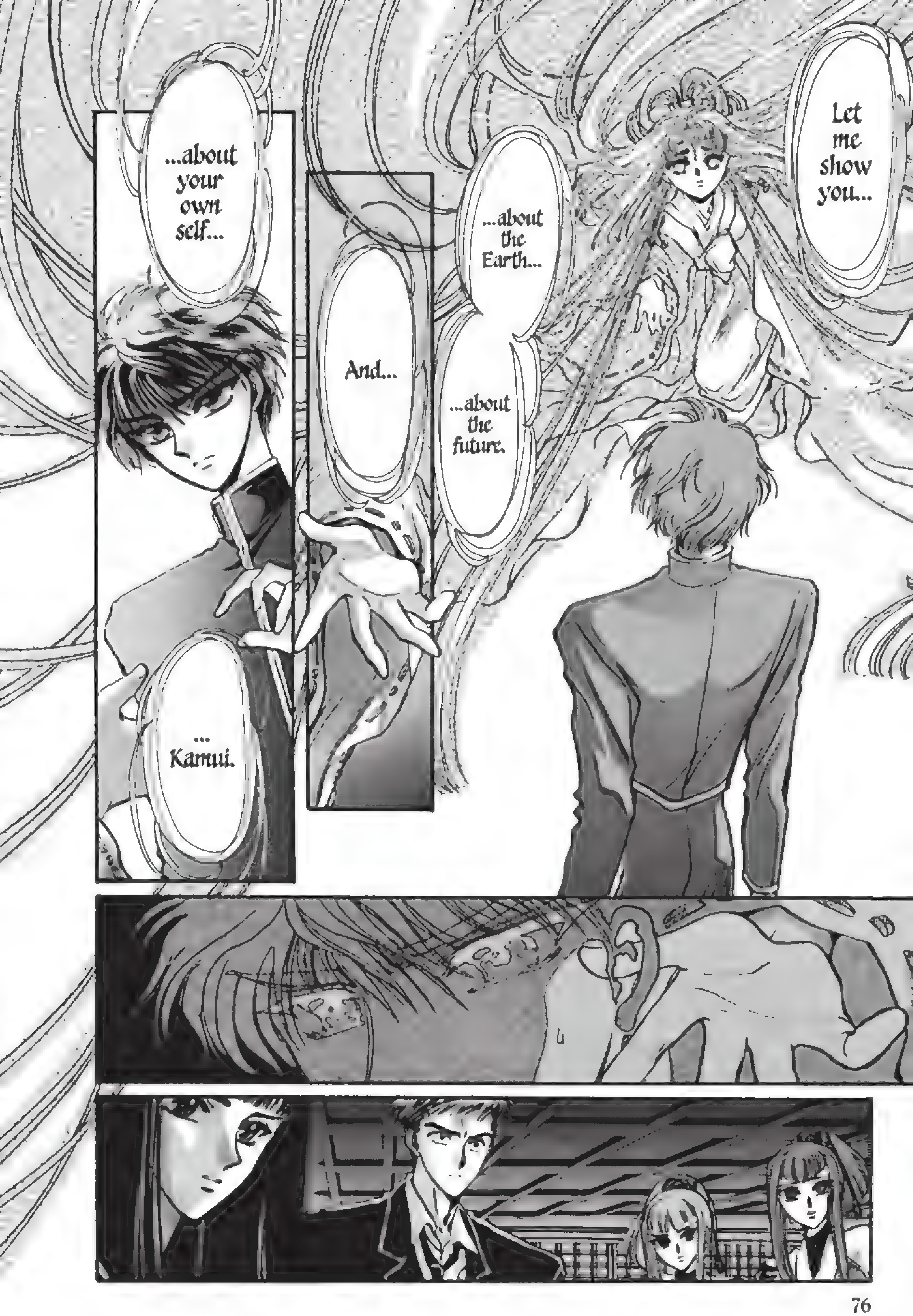

...THAT STUBBORN GEEZER AT KOYA...
...REALLY SEEMED TO LIKE YOU A LOT.
YOU KNOW HIM?
The outside world is forbidden to me.
I have never met in person the priest who raised you.
However...
Both the Stargazer and I are fated to foretell the future.
We have met. I in my dreams, and he among the stars.

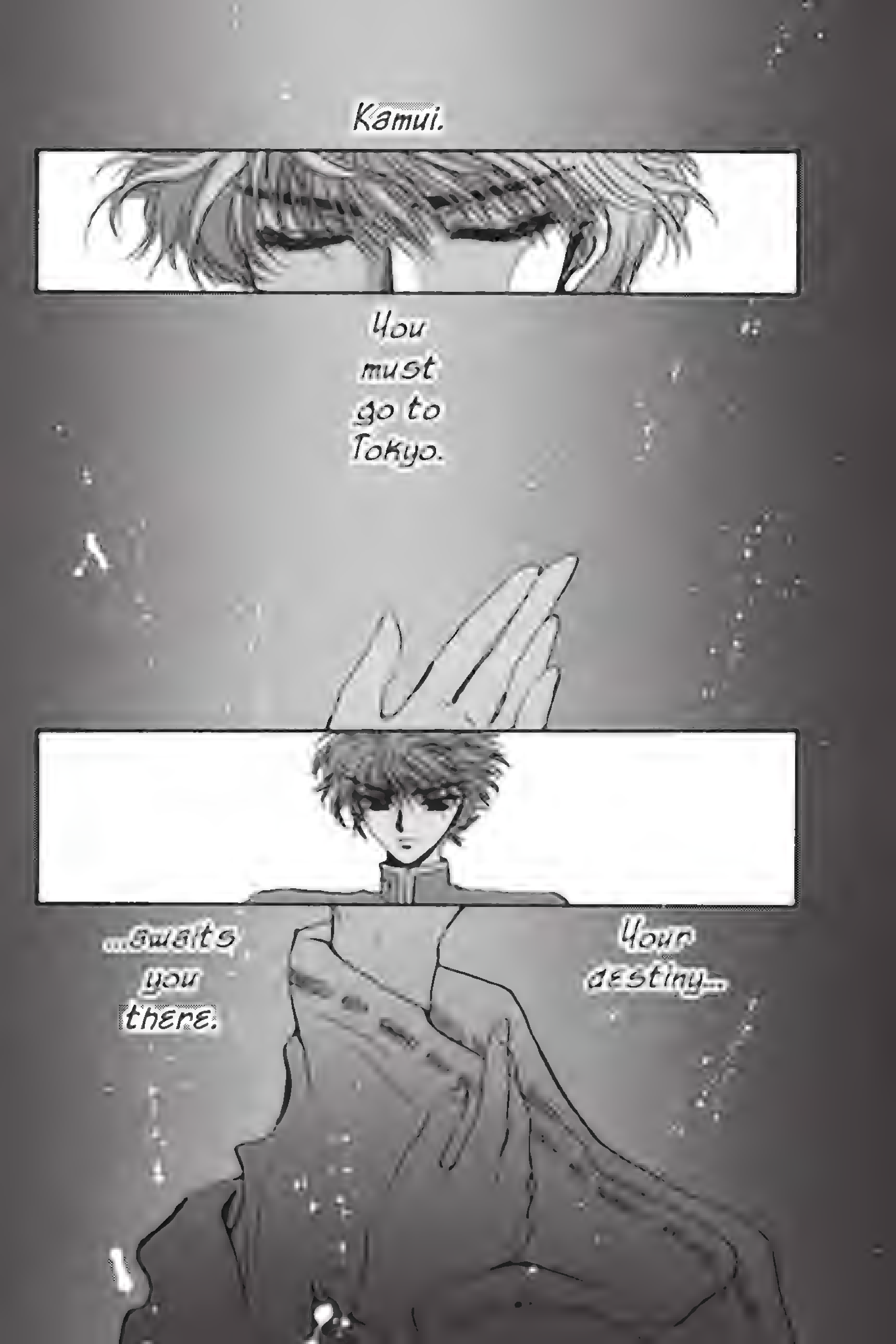

UH, RIGHT...
KINDA HEAVY ON THE PHILOSOPHY, HUH?
BUT I LIKE YOU.
SMILE
AND YOU LOOK A LOT YOUNGER THAN YOUR REAL AGE.
!!

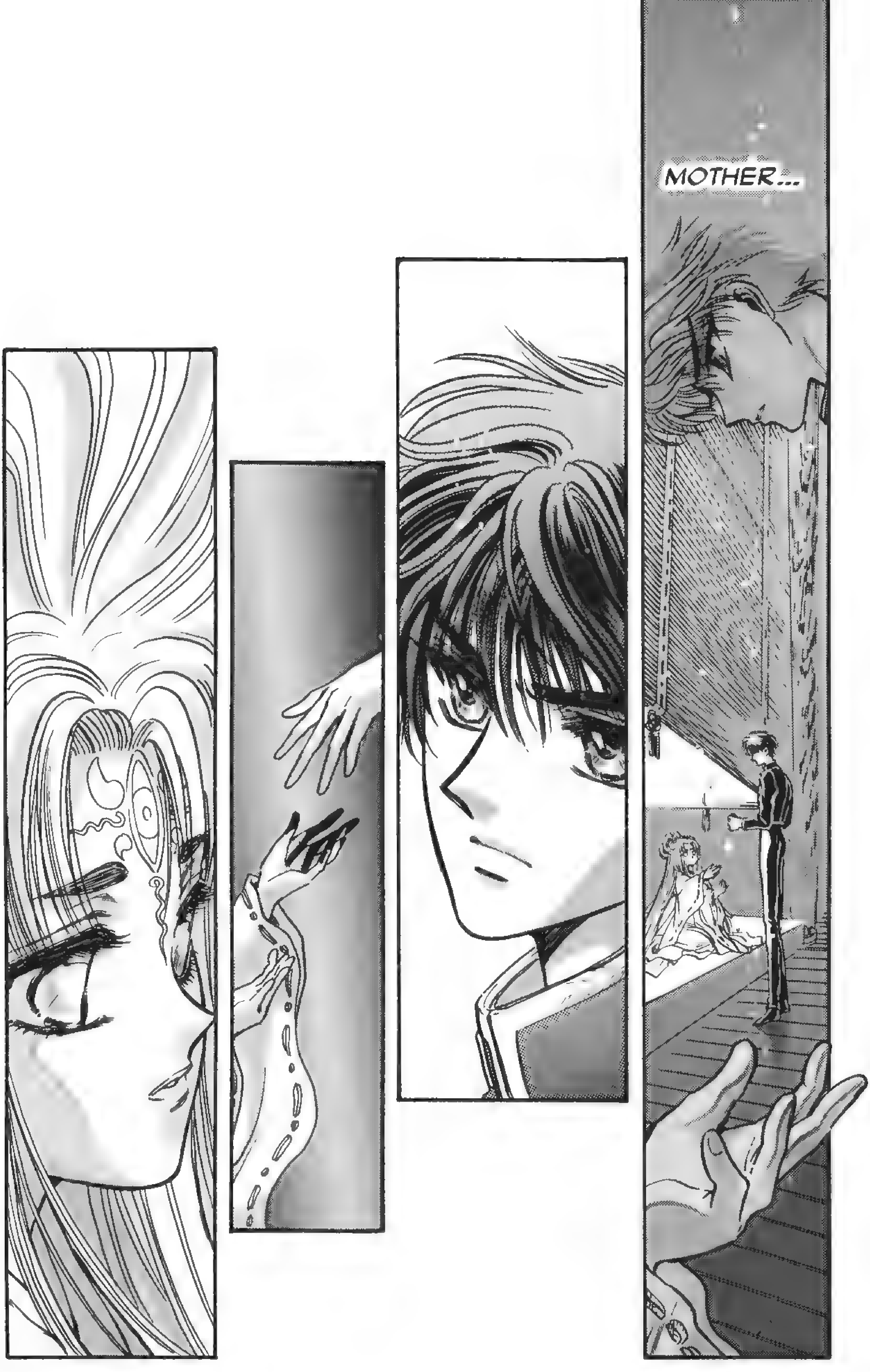

KAMUI.
HEH HEH
YOU FOLLOWED ME HERE...
...'CAUSE YOU WANTED SOME ANSWERS, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY YOU CAME TO DINNER TOO.
THAT'S BECAUSE—
YEP, IT WAS DELICIOUS!
It was good...
YOU BAST—
GRRP
?!

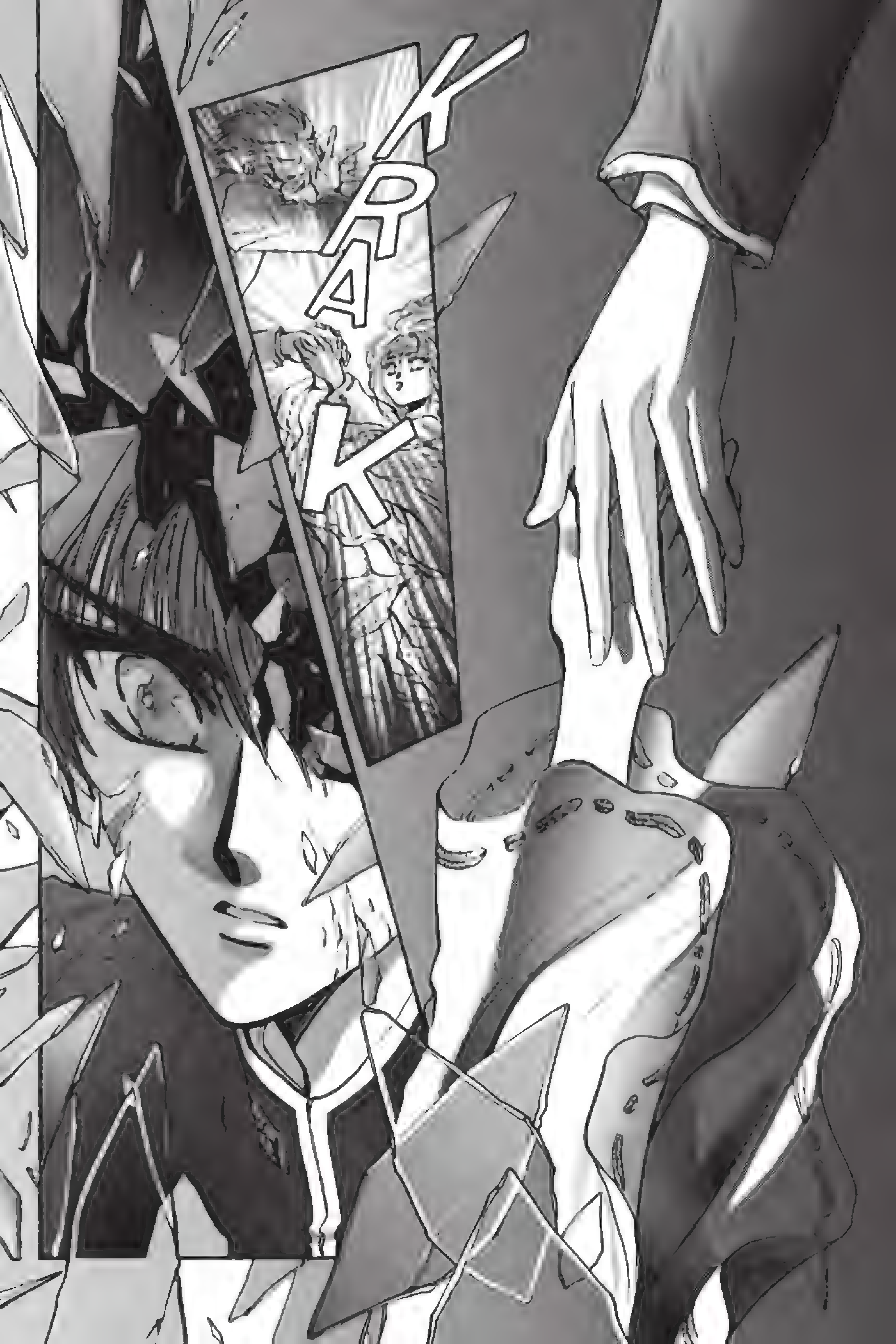

DON'T WORRY, KAMUI.
IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN...
...I'D RISK MY LIFE FOR YOU.
THAT, KAMUI...
...IS MY FATE.

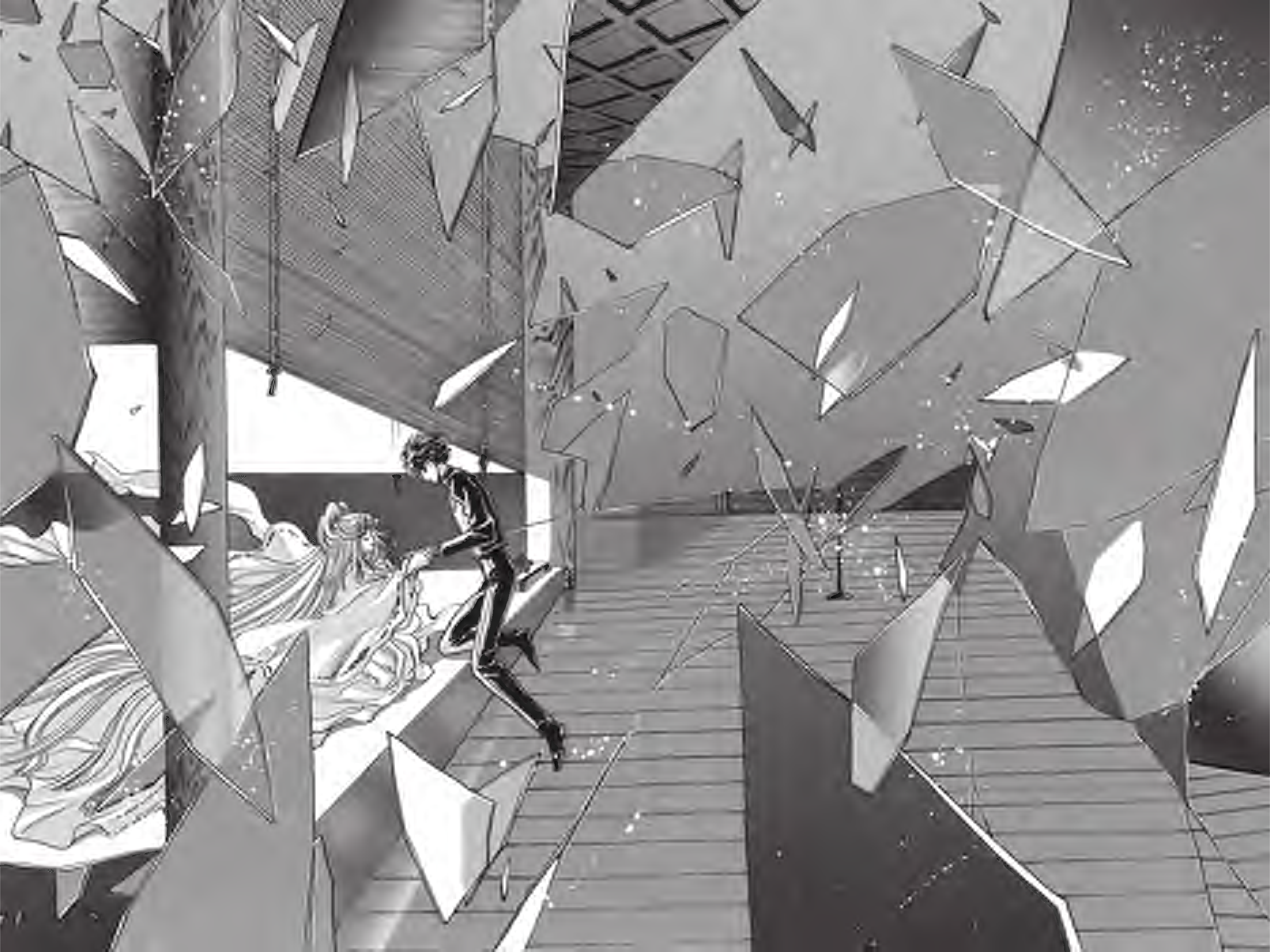

YOUR ...
WHIRL
SHF
SHFFLSHFFL

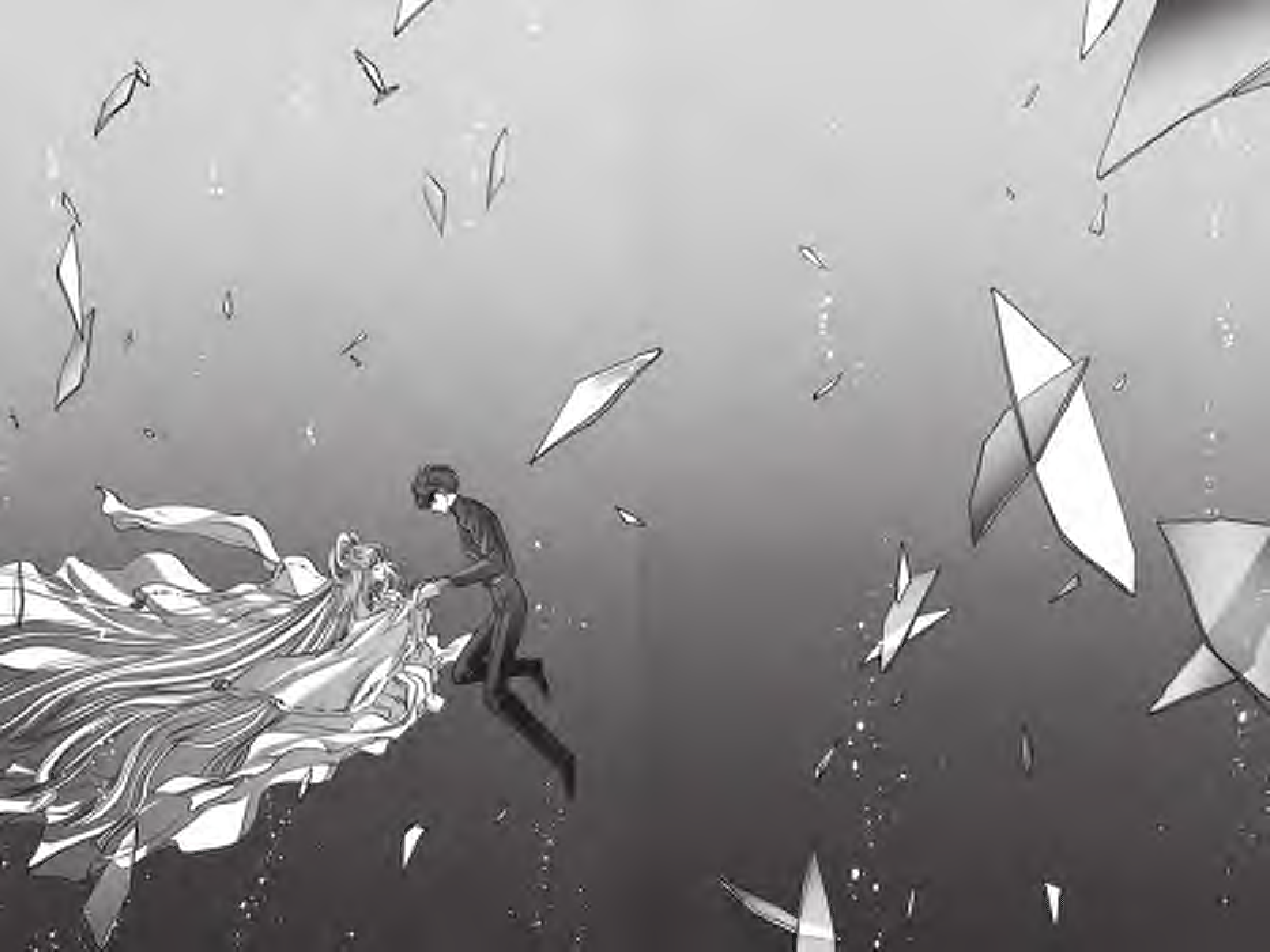

Let me show you...
...about the Earth...
...about the future.
And...
...about your own self...
... Kamui.

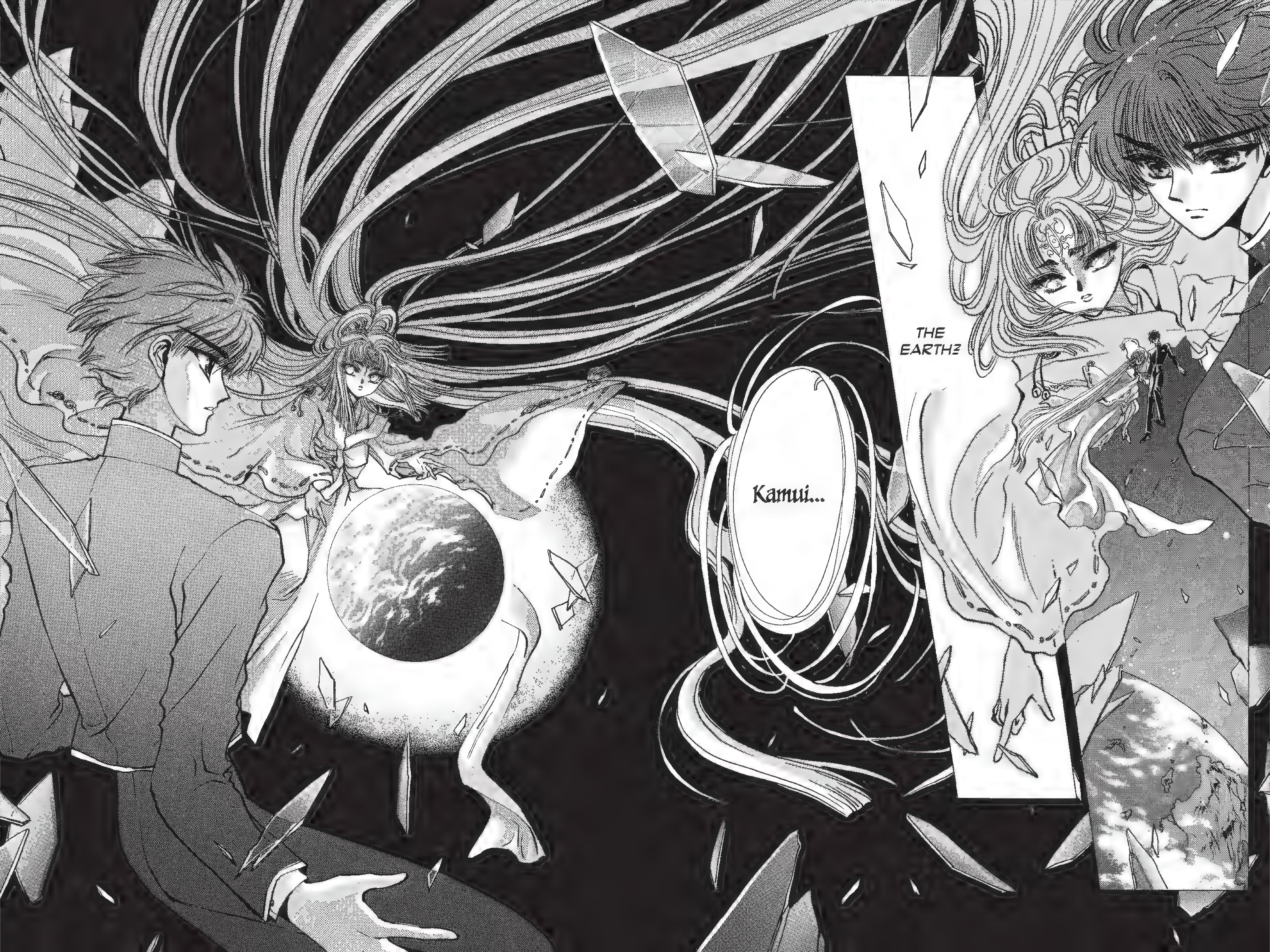

Kamui.
You must go to Tokyo.
Your destiny...
...awaits you there.

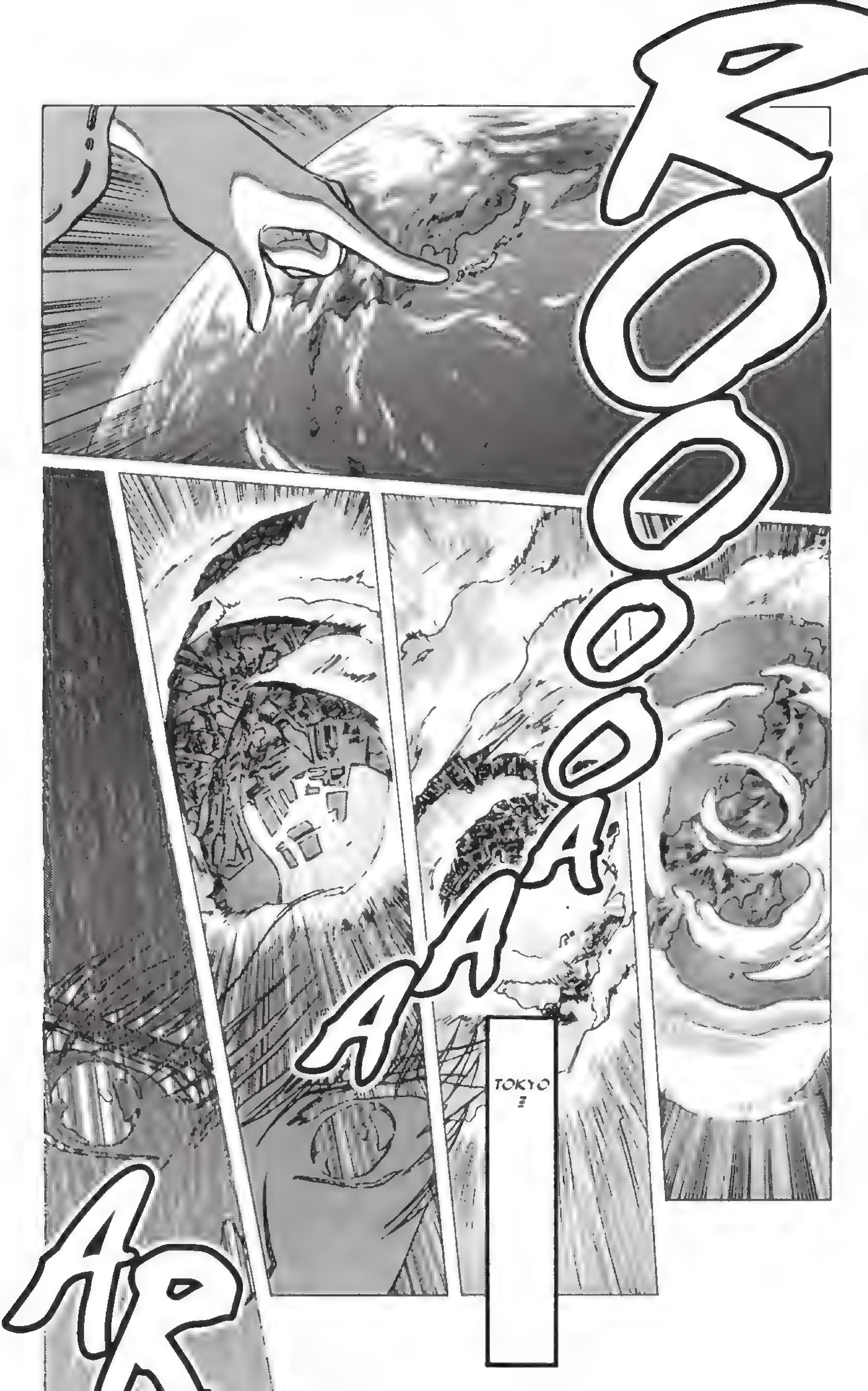

MOTHER...

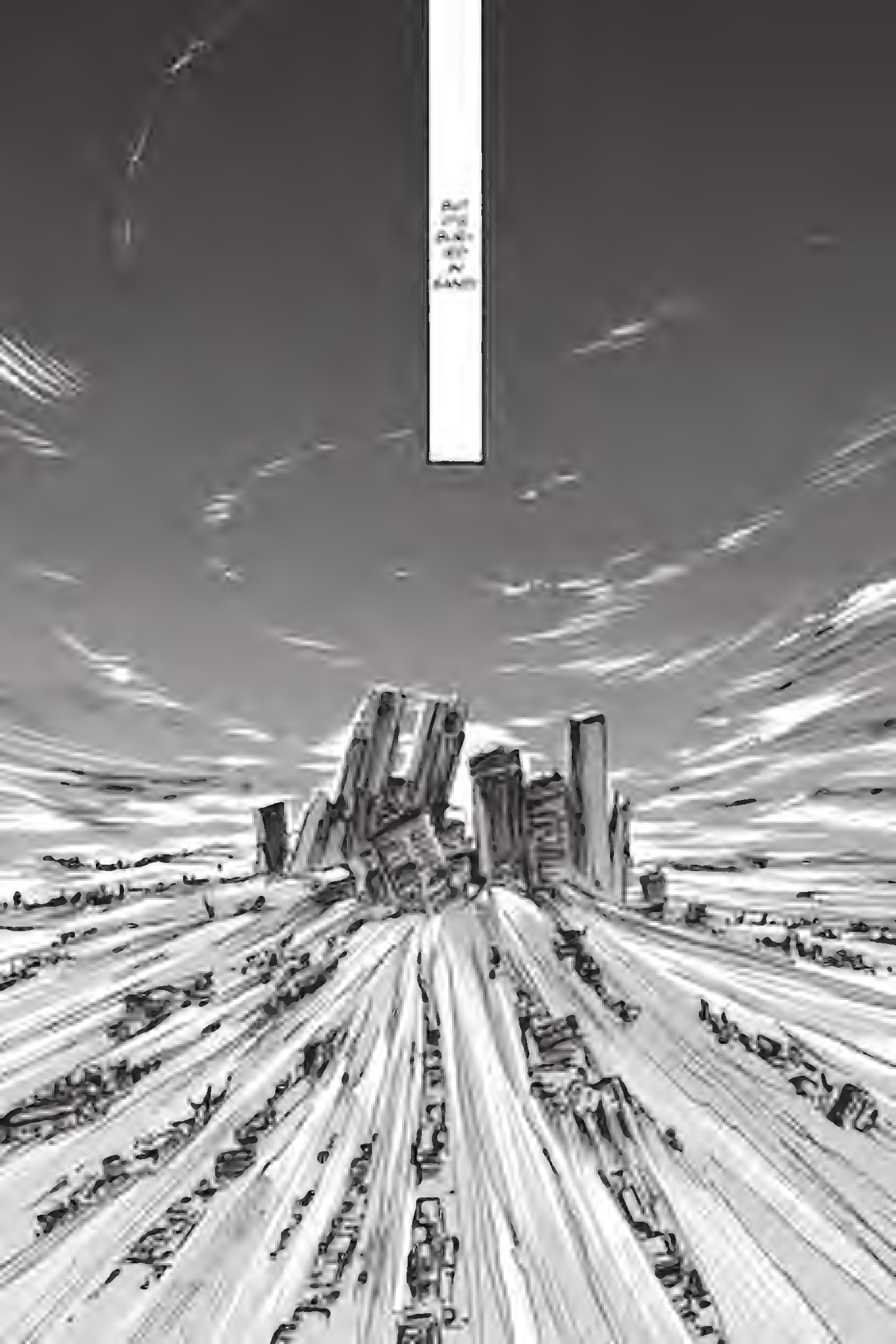

KRAKK

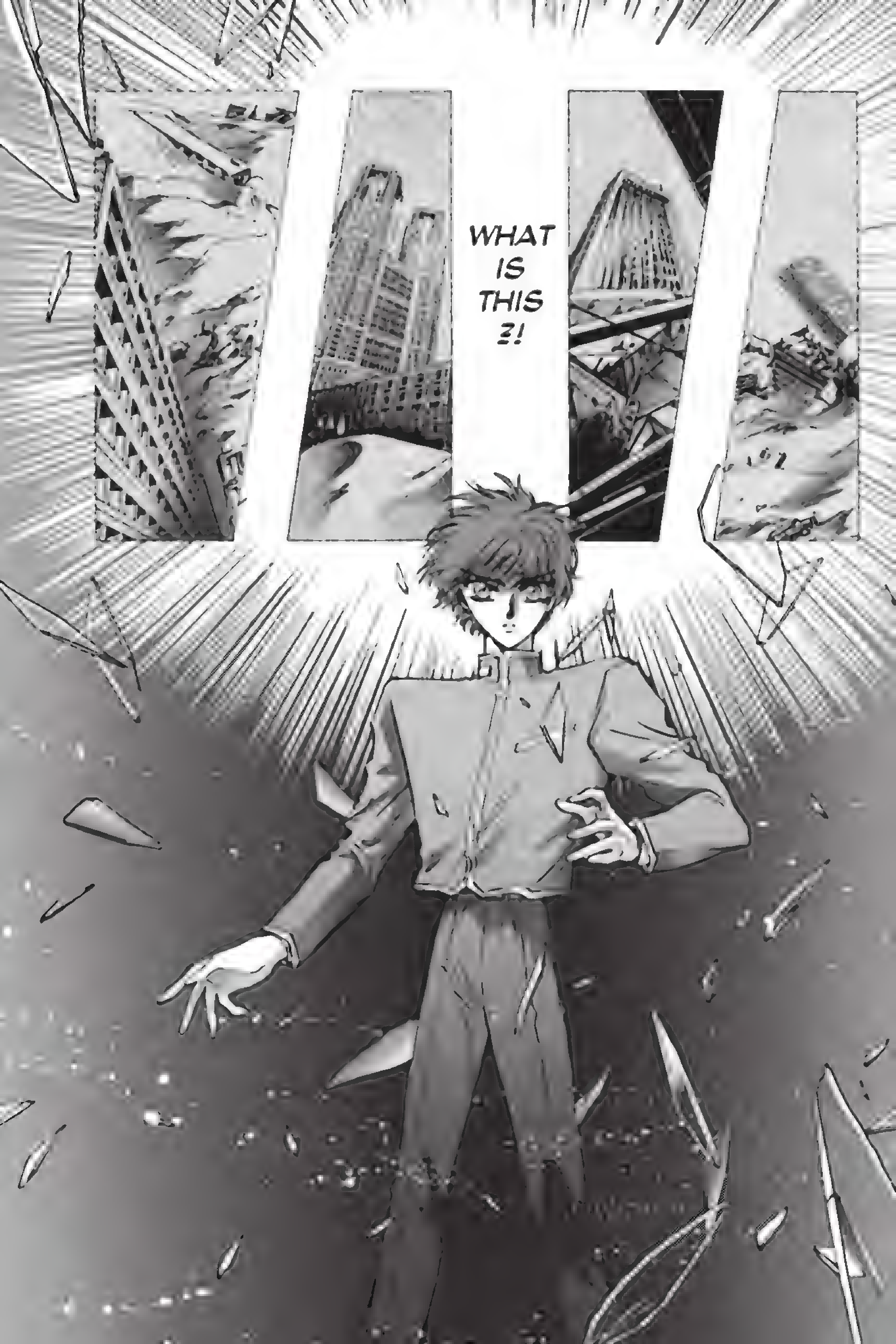


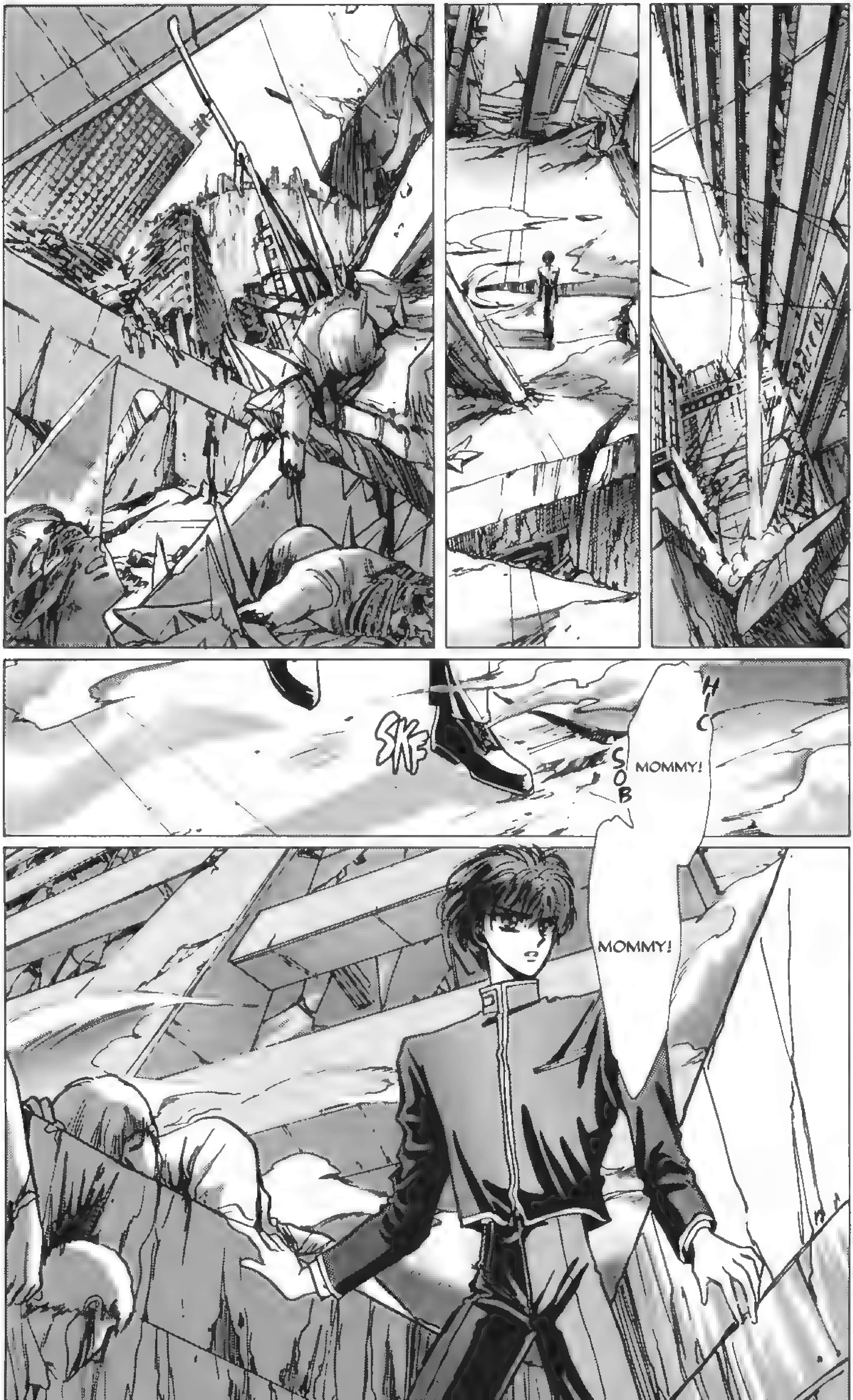


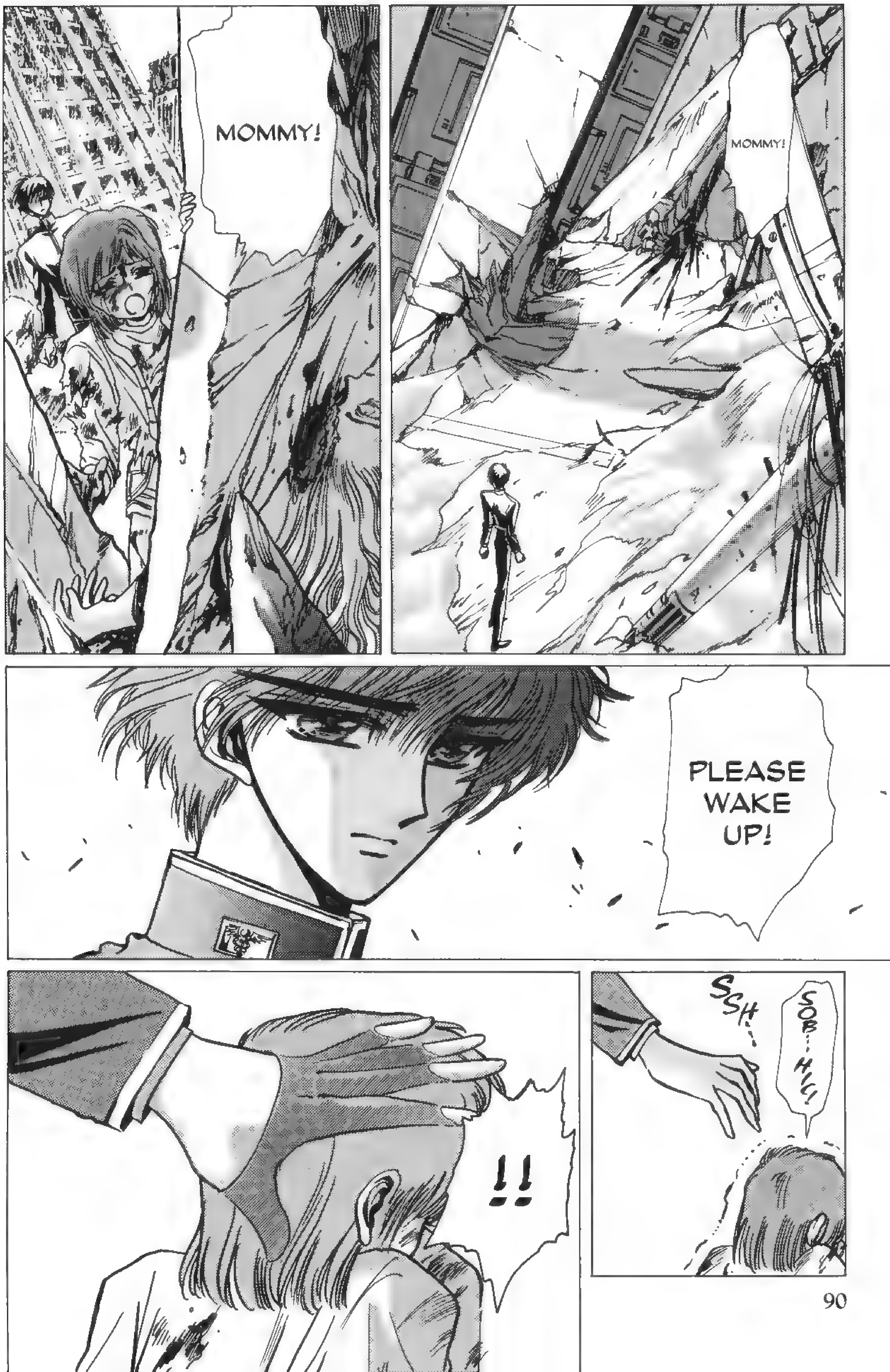

THE EARTH?
Kamui...

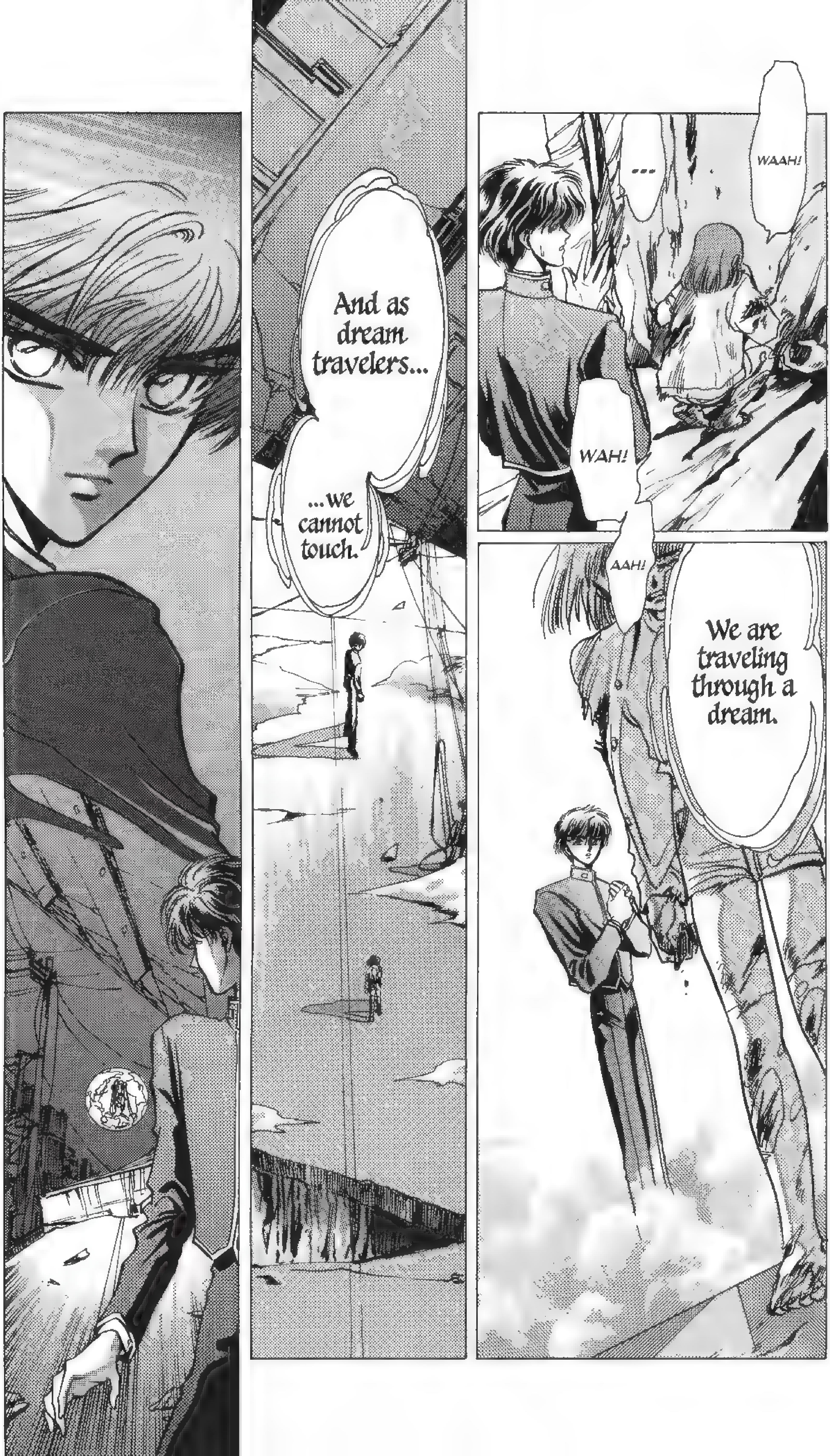

ROOOOAAAAAR
TOKYO 3

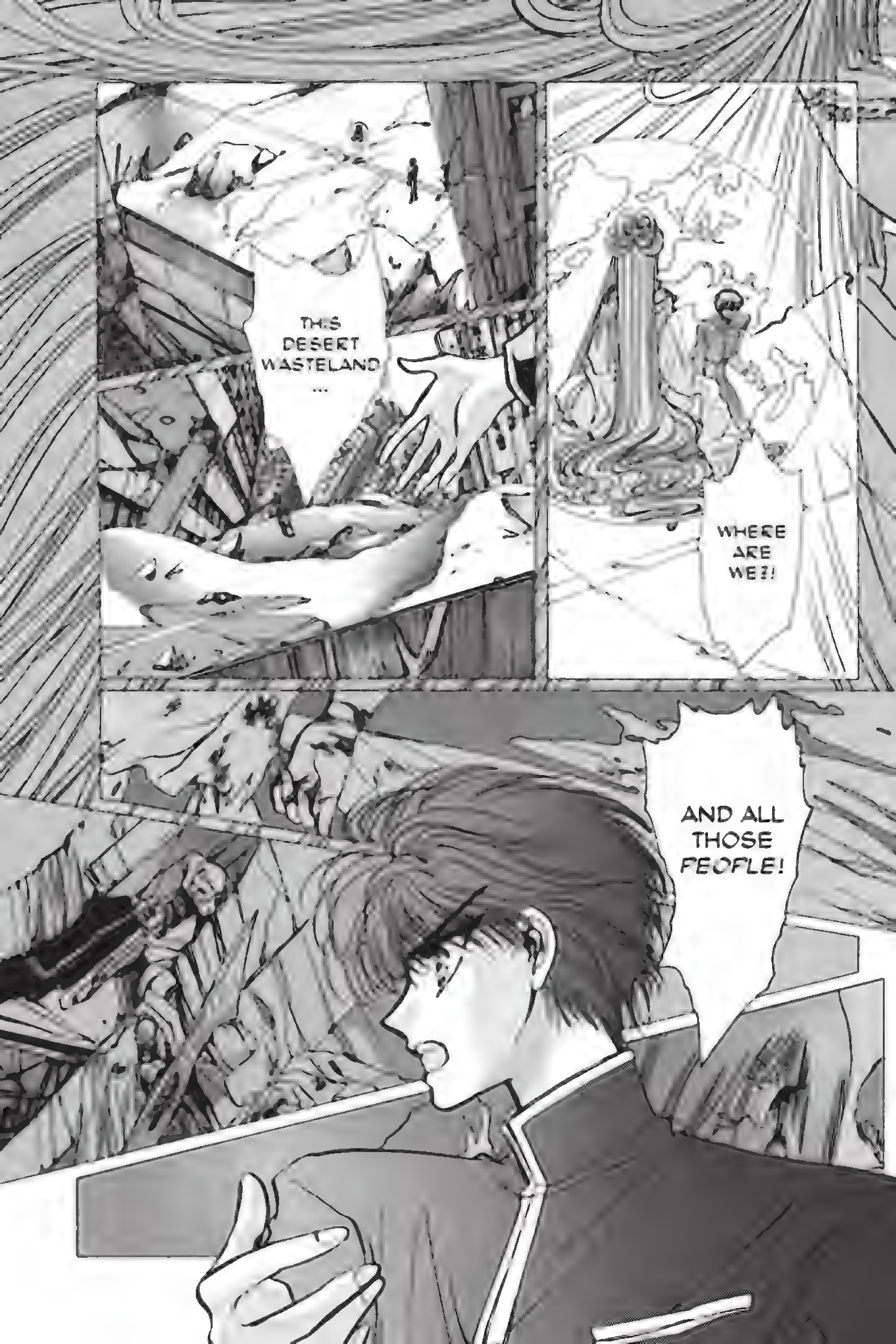

BUT IT'S [illegible] [illegible] IN [illegible]

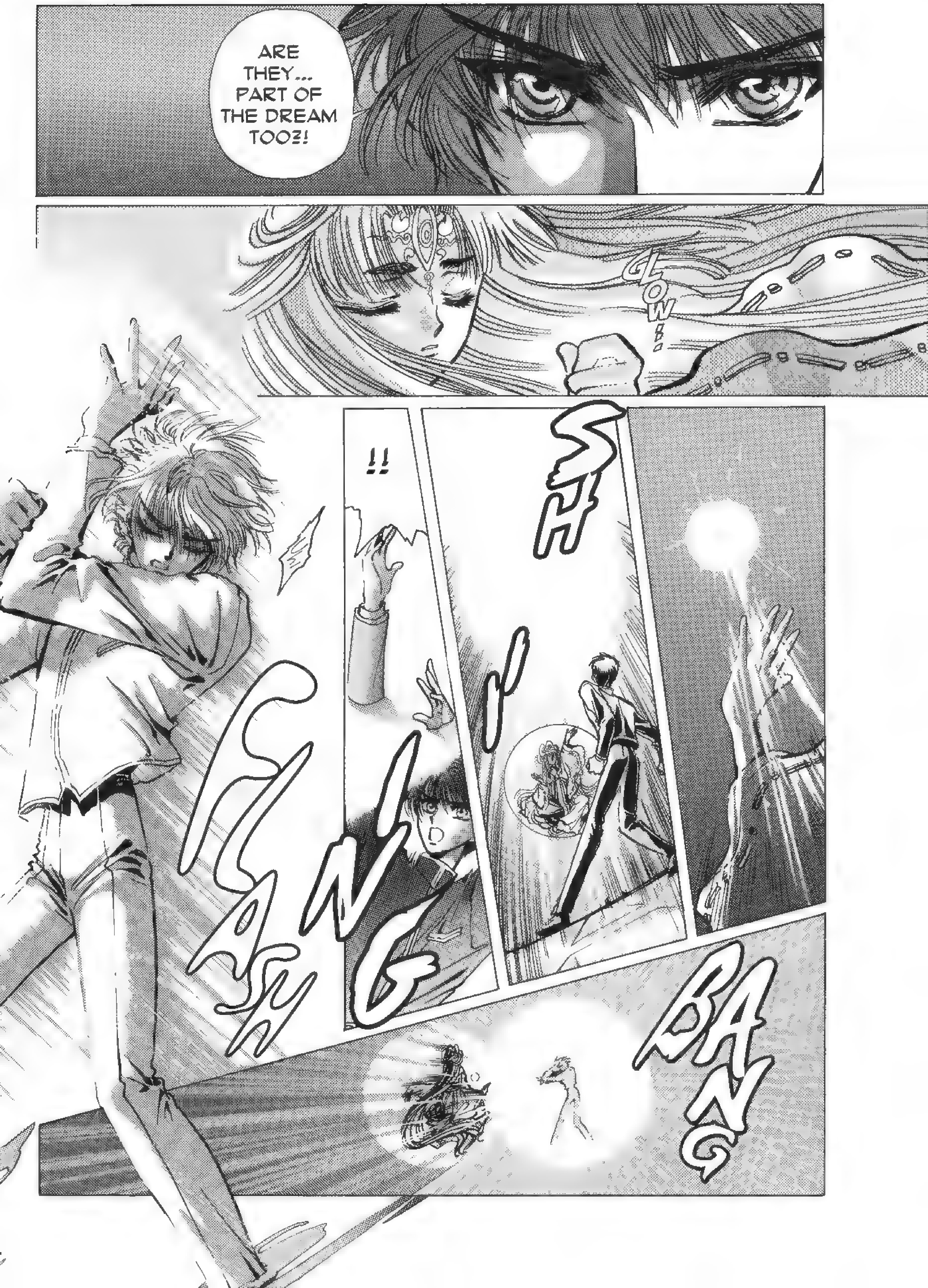

WHAT IS THIS ?!

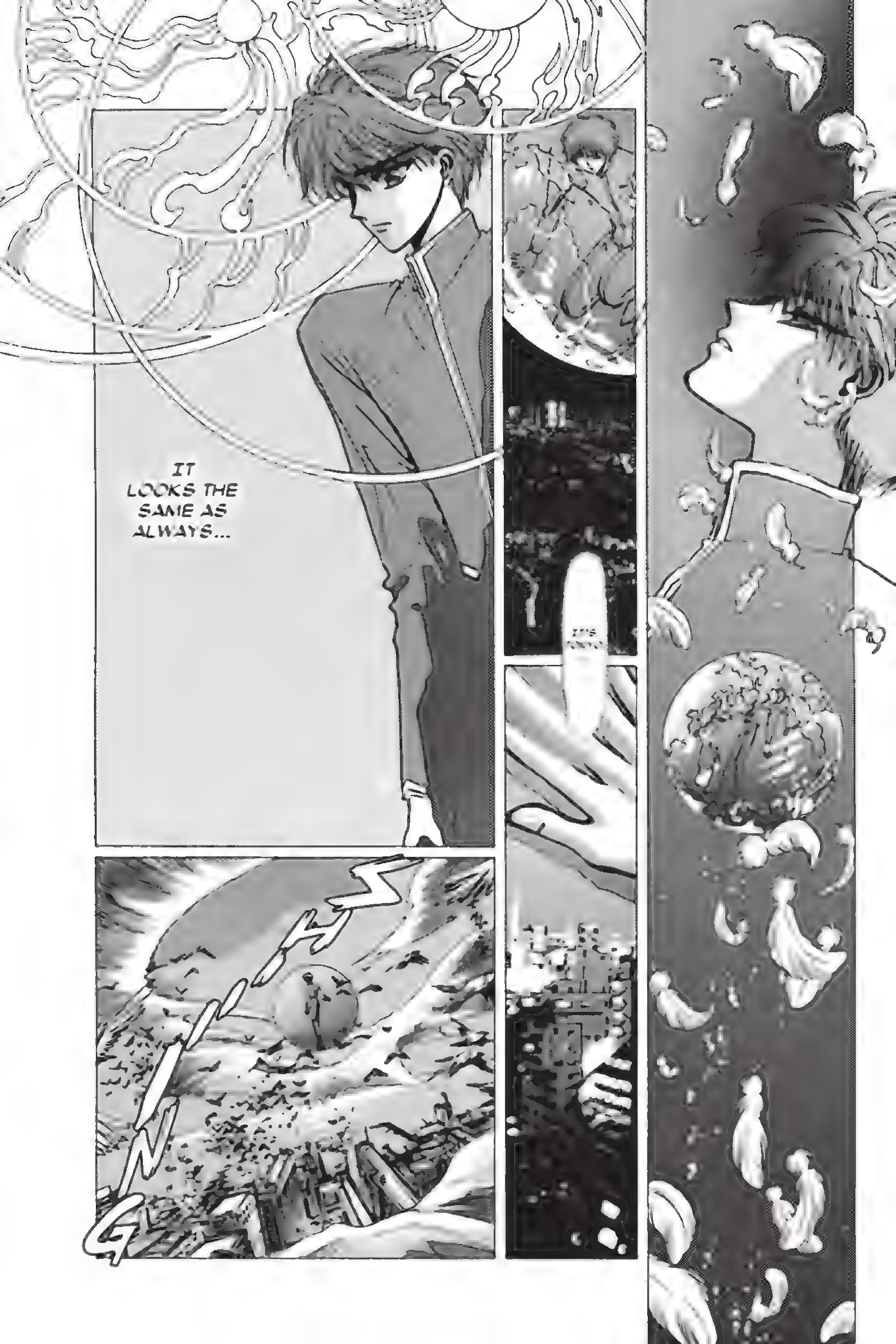

HIC
SOB
MOMMY!
SKF
MOMMY!

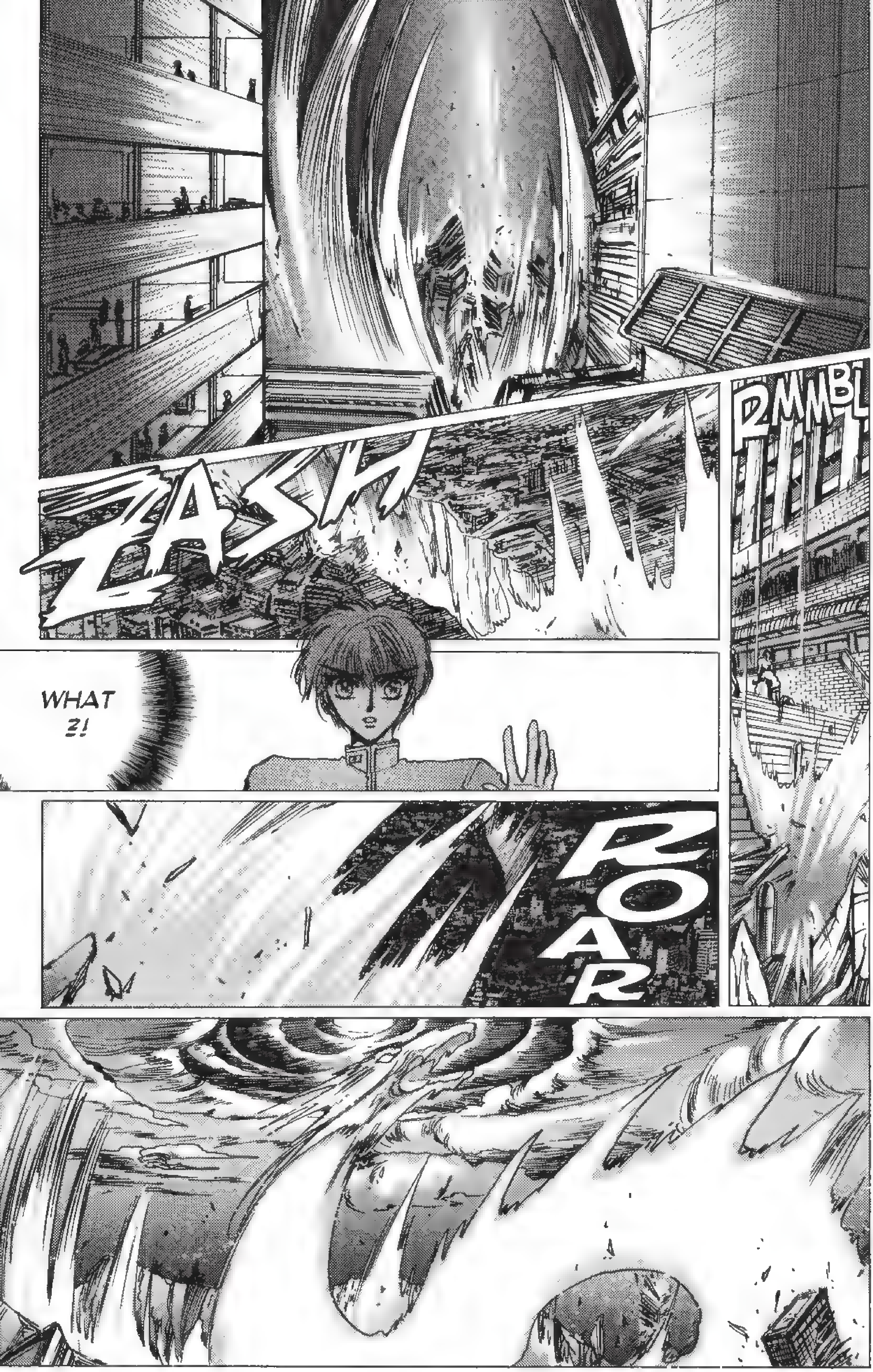

MOMMY!
MOMMY!
PLEASE WAKE UP!
SOB... HIC!
SSH...
!!

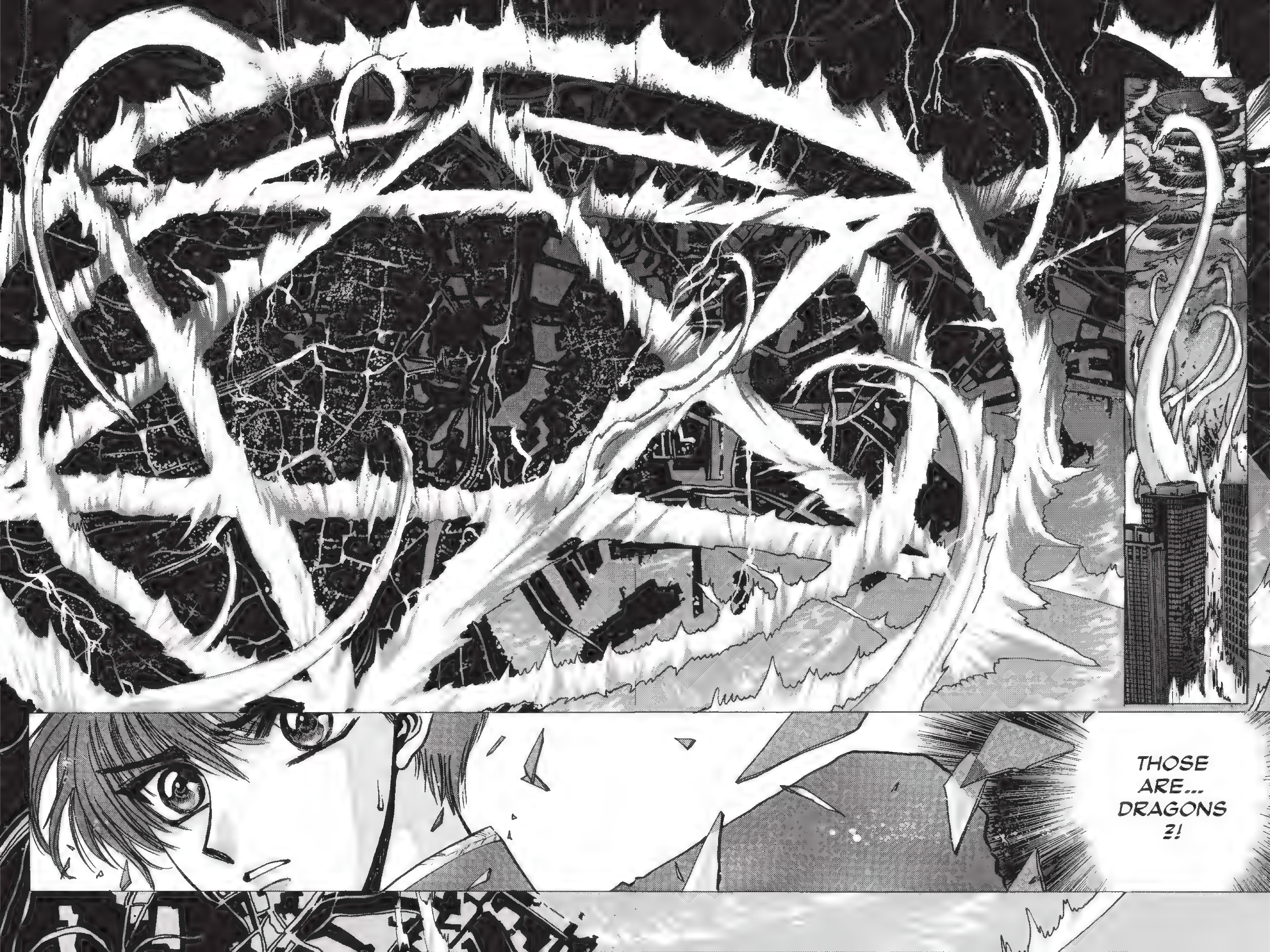

WAAH!
...
WAH!
AAH!
We are traveling through a dream.
And as dream travelers...
...we cannot touch.

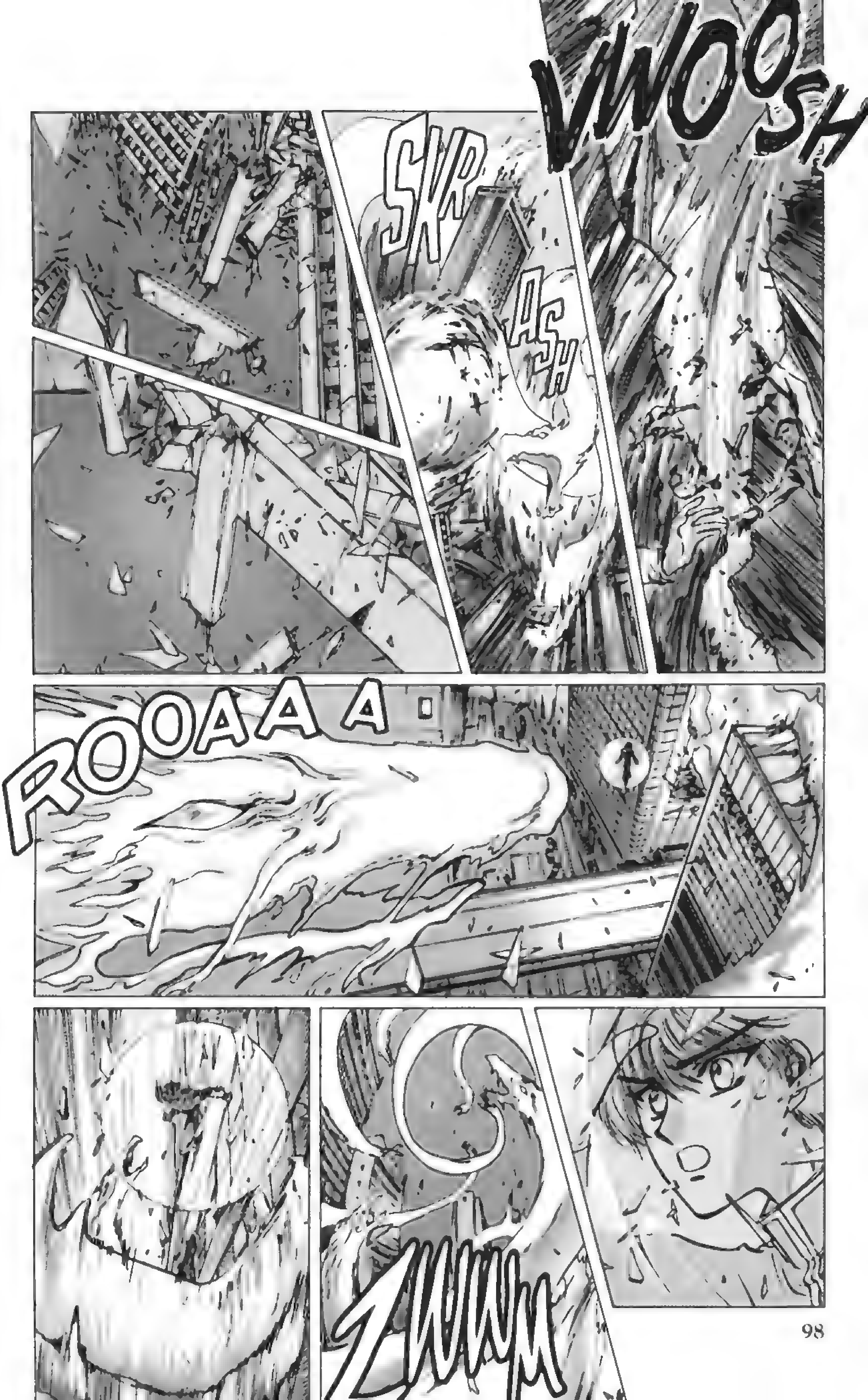

WHERE ARE WE?!
THIS DESERT WASTELAND ...
AND ALL THOSE *PEOPLE!*

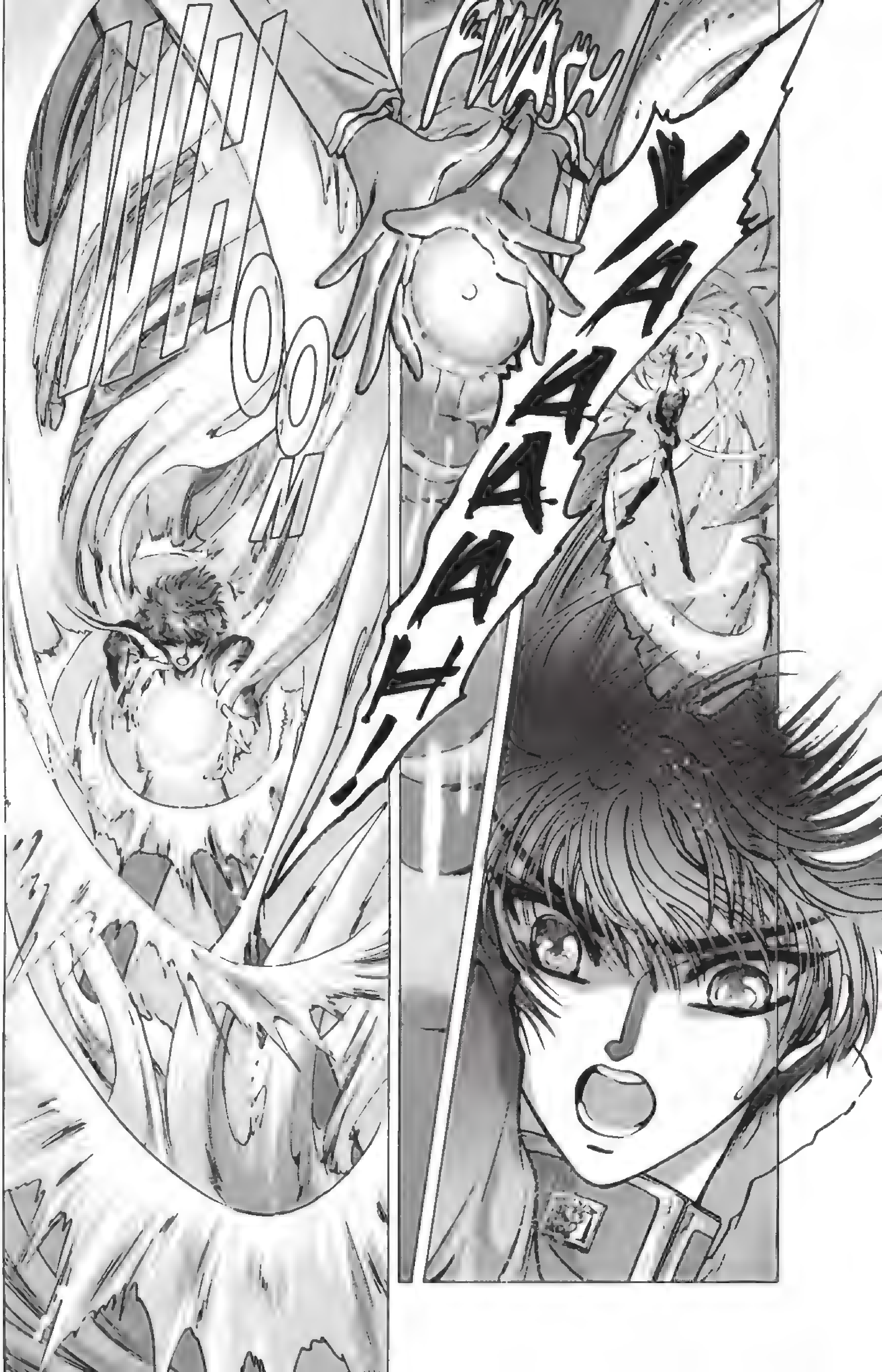

ARE THEY... PART OF THE DREAM TOO?!
GLOW!!
SHH
!!
FLING
FLASH
BANG


IT LOOKS THE SAME AS ALWAYS...
IT'S [illegible]
SHIIING

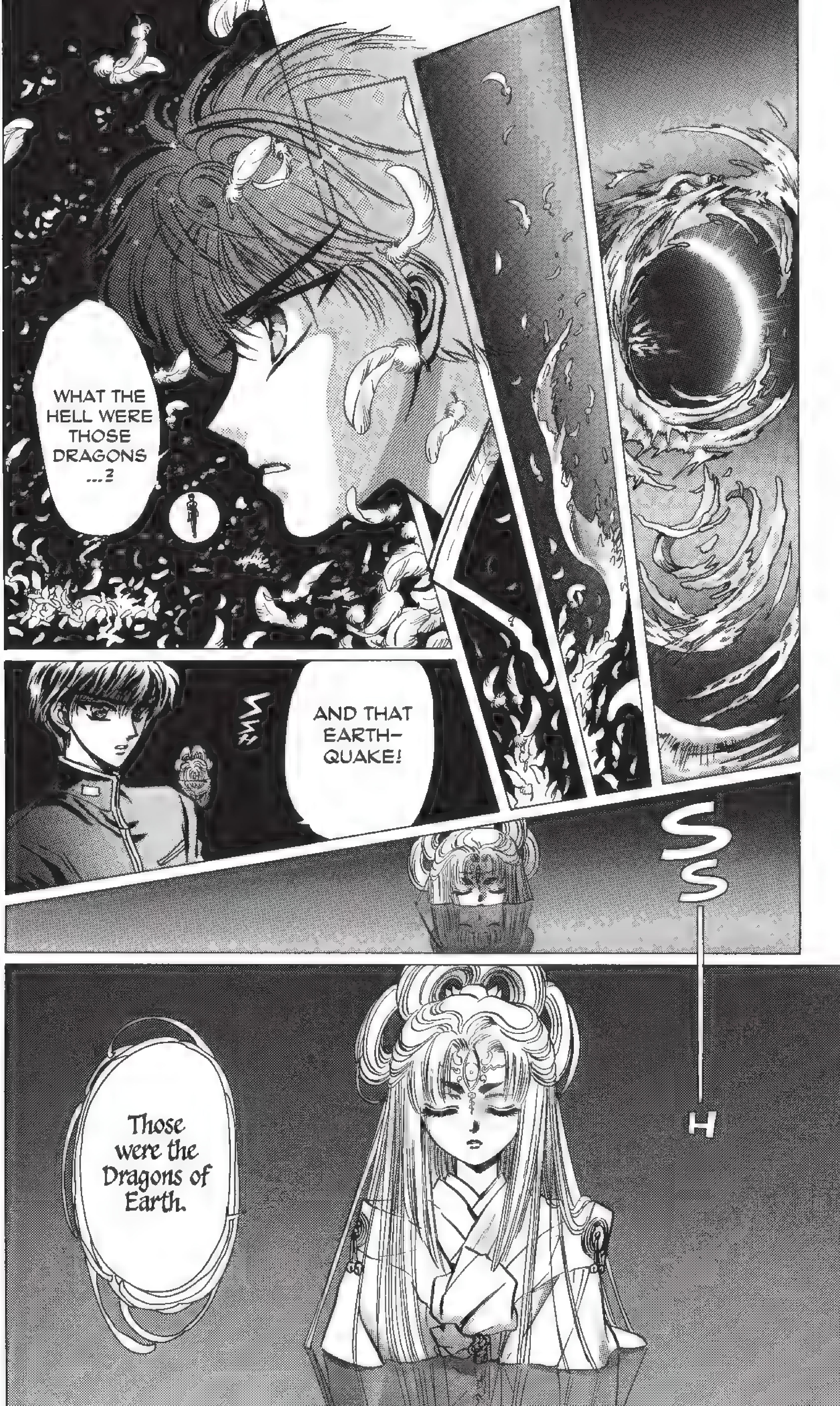

RMMBL
ZASH
WHAT?!
ROAR

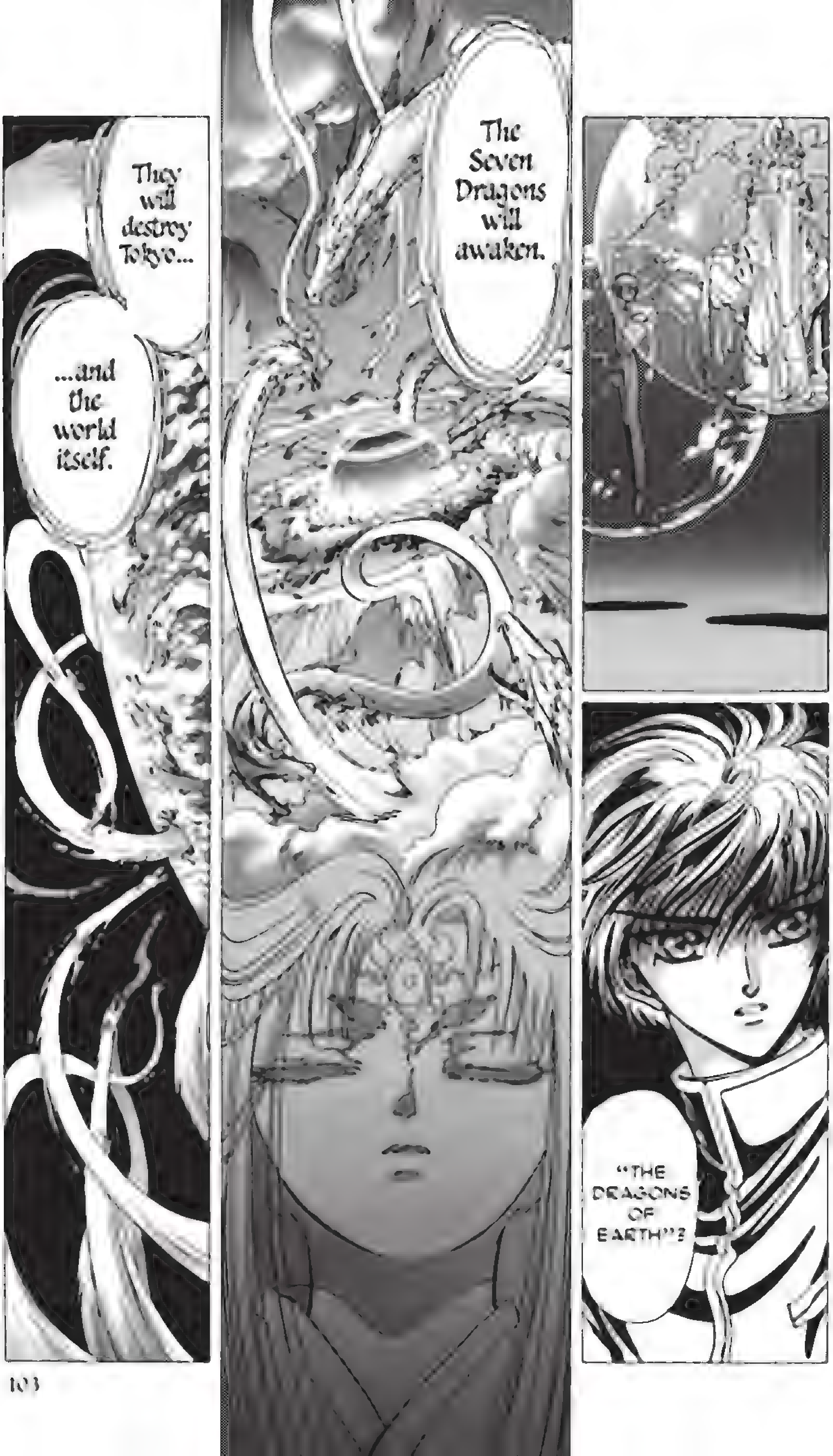

THOSE ARE... DRAGONS?!

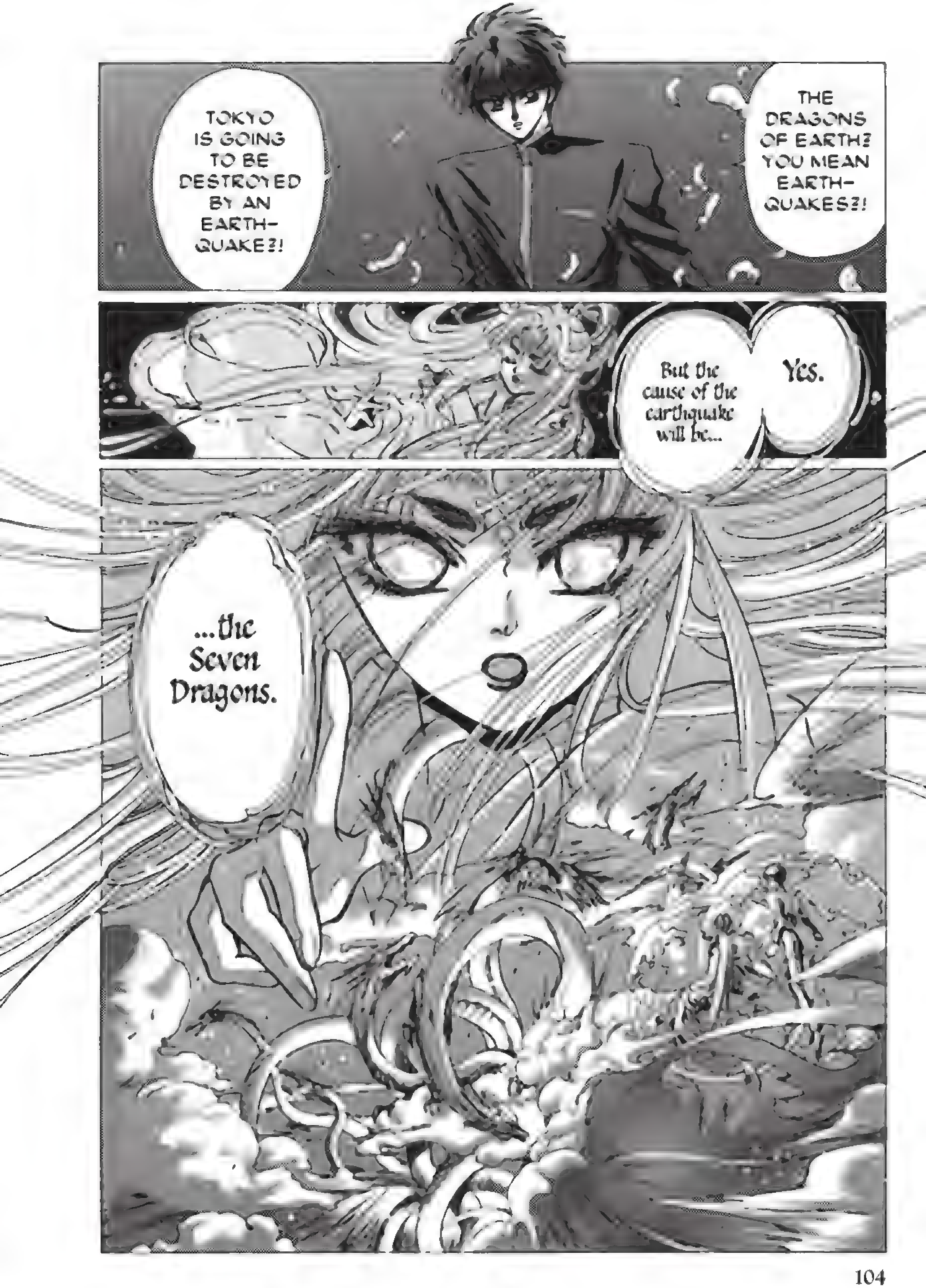

VWOOSH
SKR-
ASH
ROOAAA A
ZHUUM

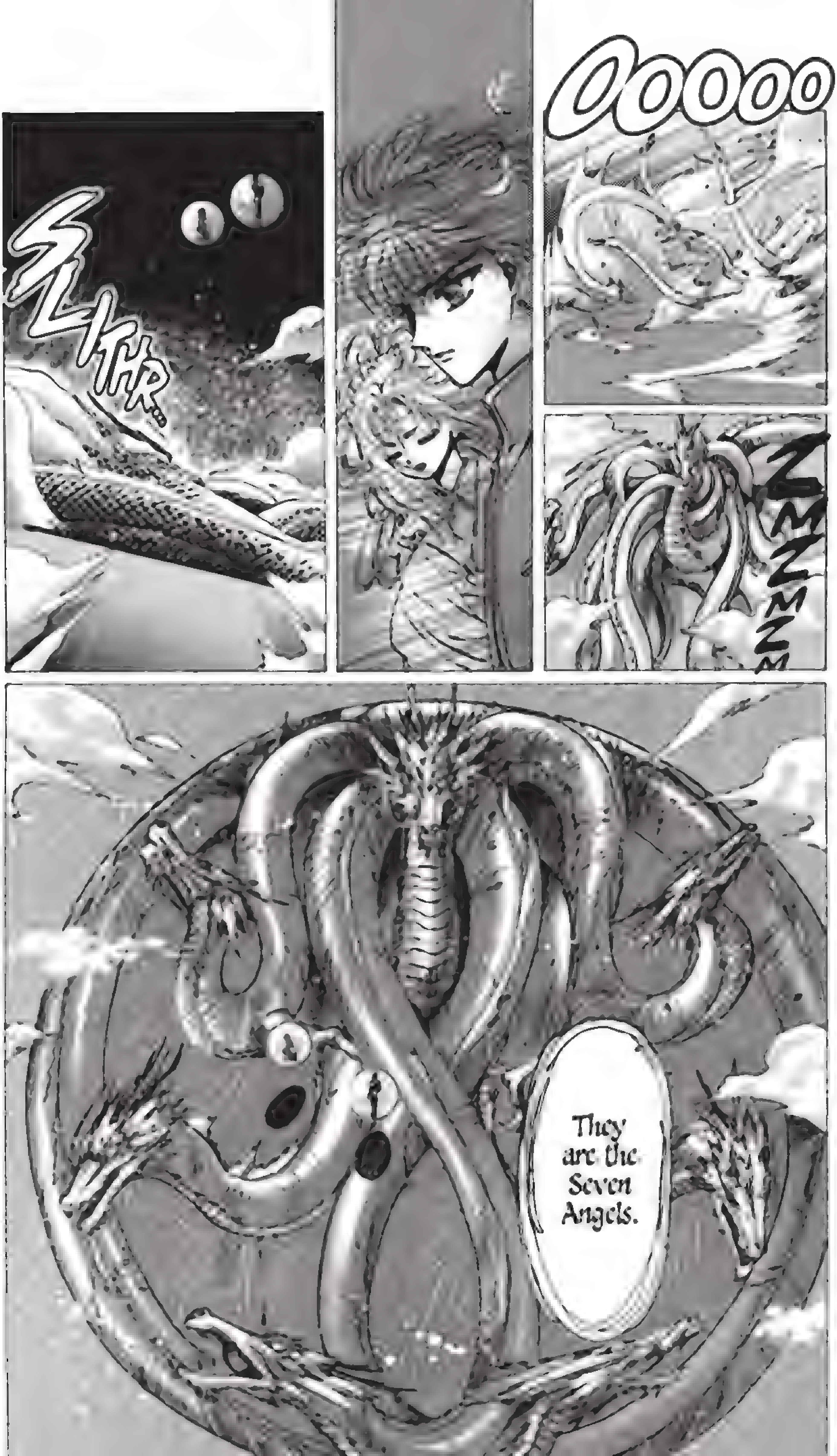

FWASH
YAAAAH!!
WHOOM

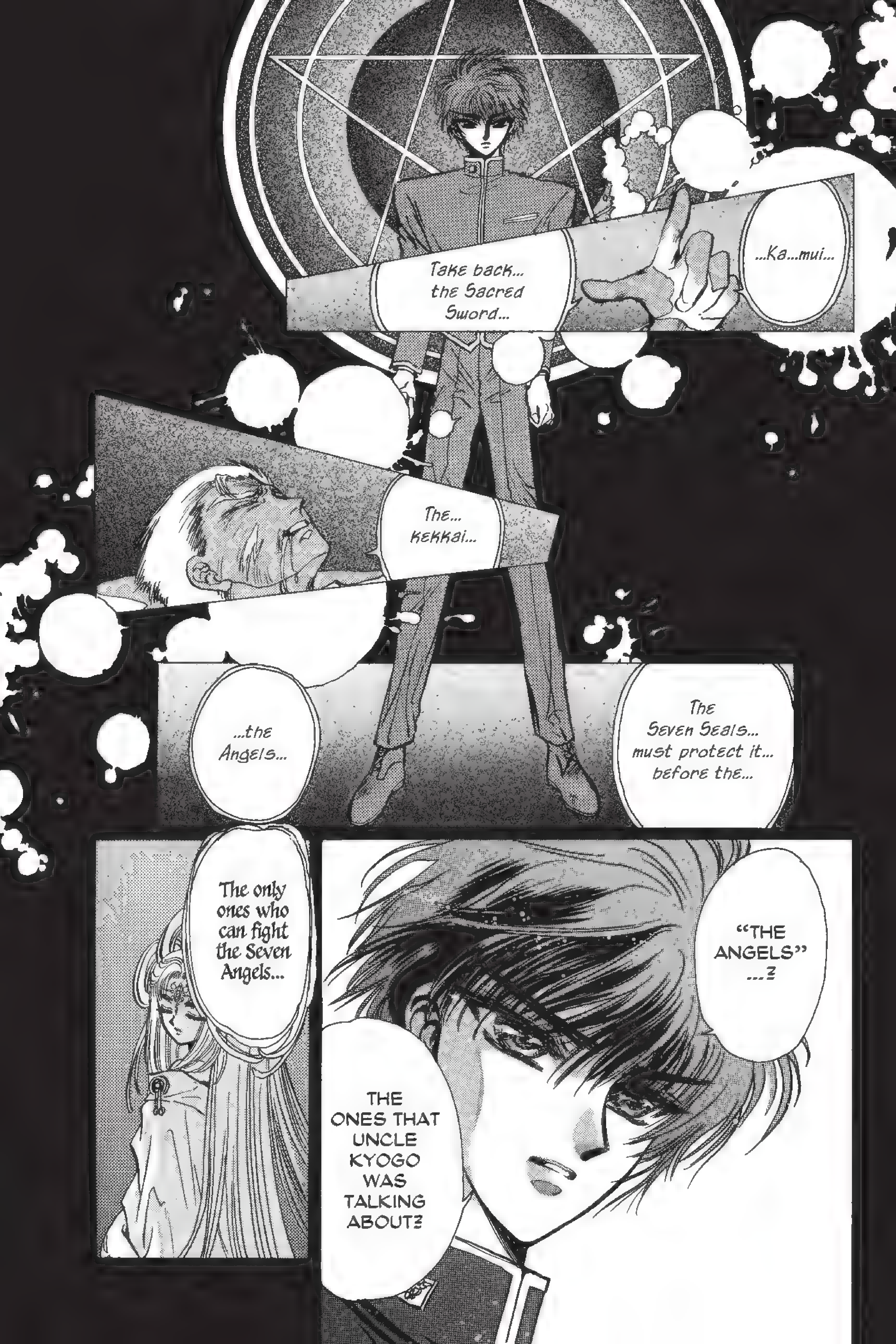
KABOOOOM

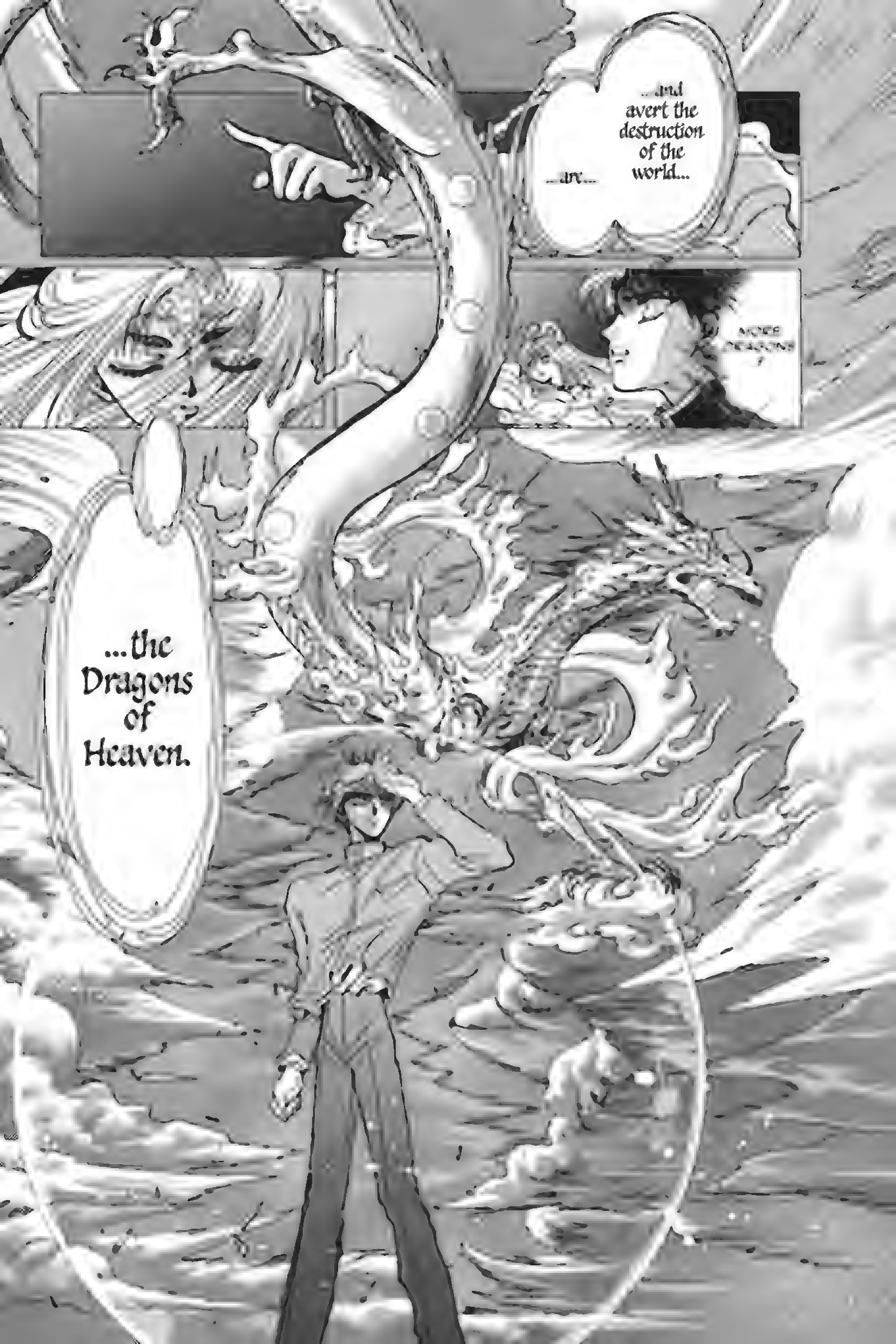

WHAT THE HELL WERE THOSE DRAGONS ...?
SSH
AND THAT EARTH-QUAKE!
SS—H
Those were the Dragons of Earth.

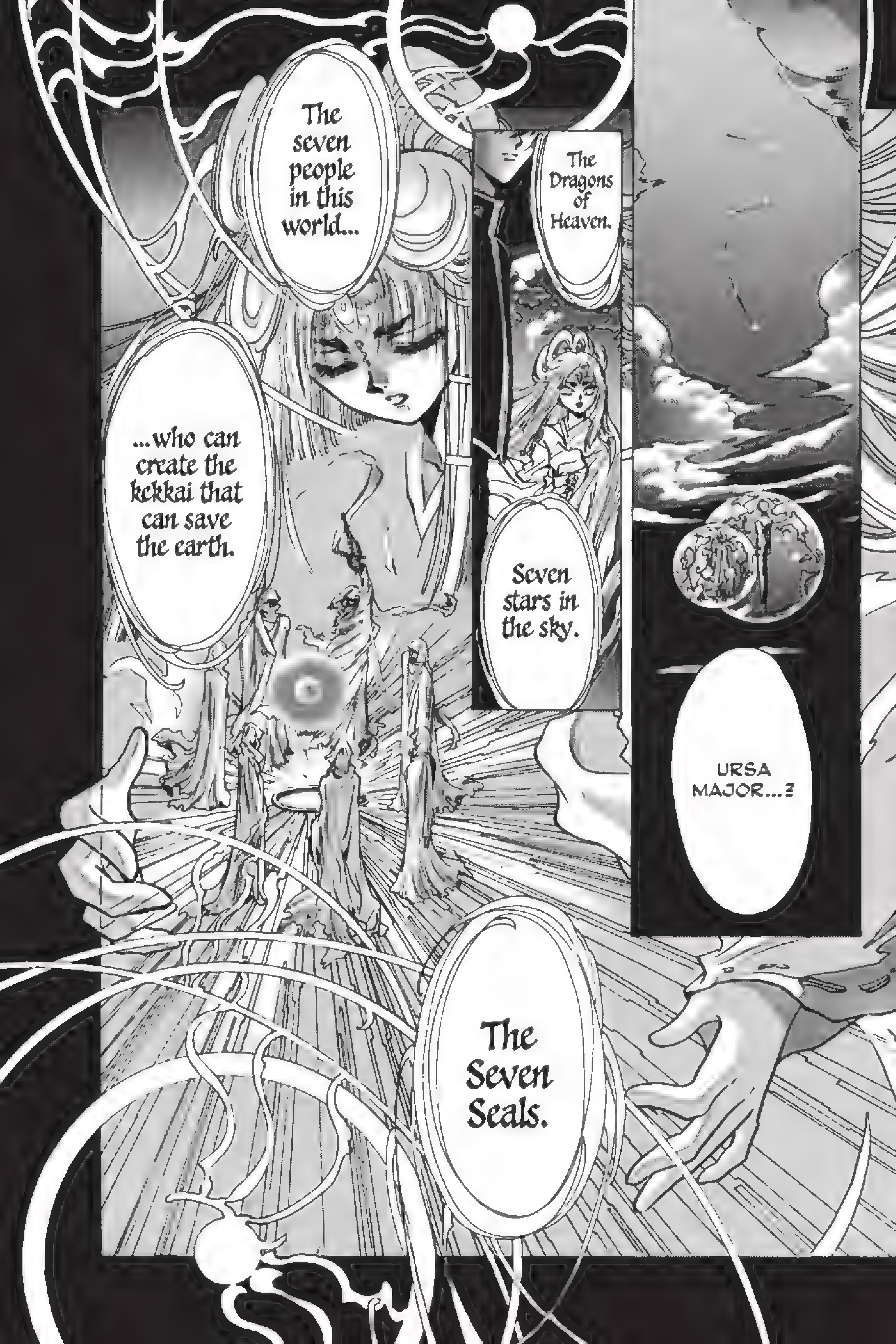

The Seven Dragons will awaken.
They will destroy Tokyo...
...and the world itself.
"THE DRAGONS OF EARTH"?

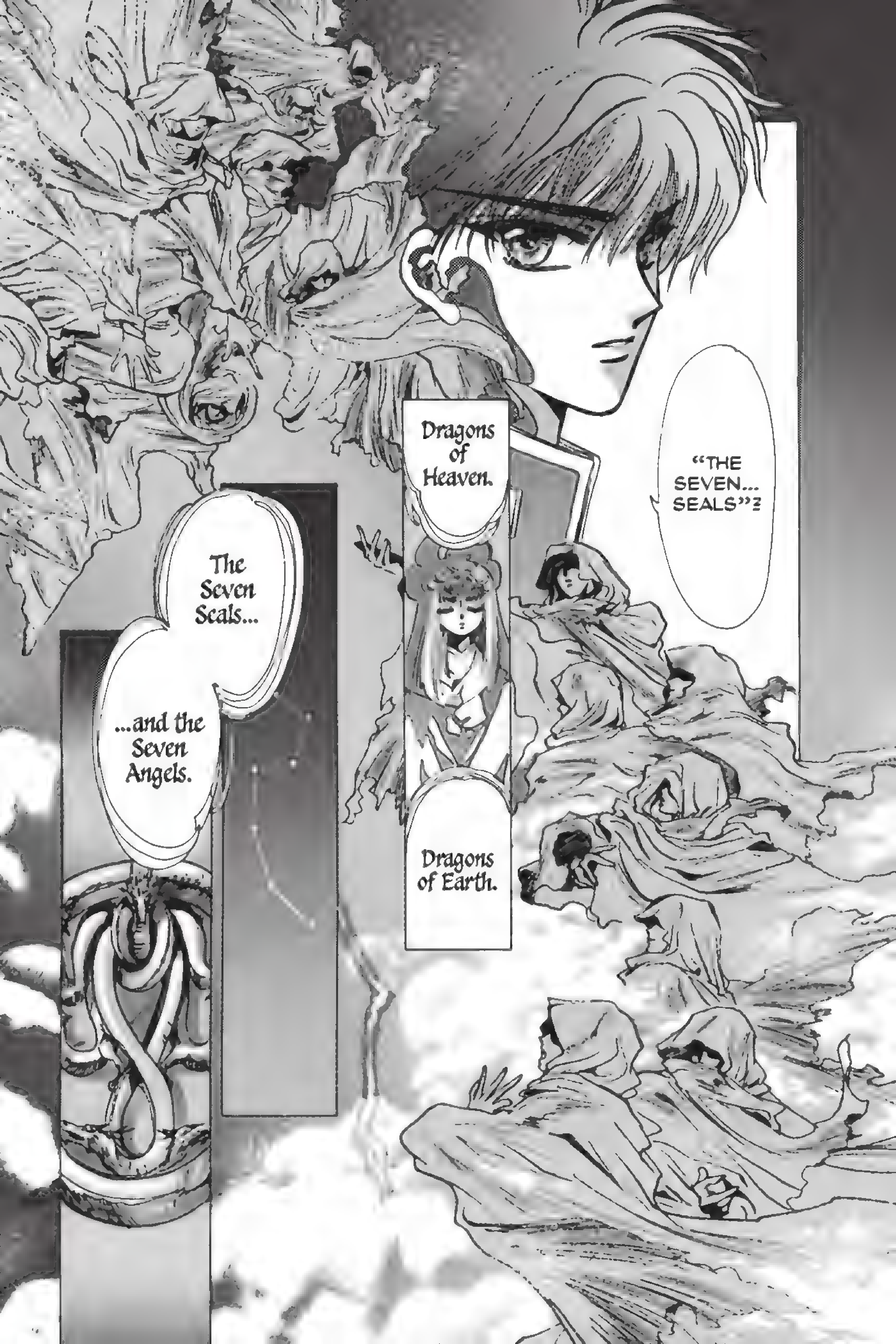

THE DRAGONS OF EARTH? YOU MEAN EARTHQUAKES?!
TOKYO IS GOING TO BE DESTROYED BY AN EARTHQUAKE?!
Yes.
But the cause of the earthquake will be...
...the Seven Dragons.

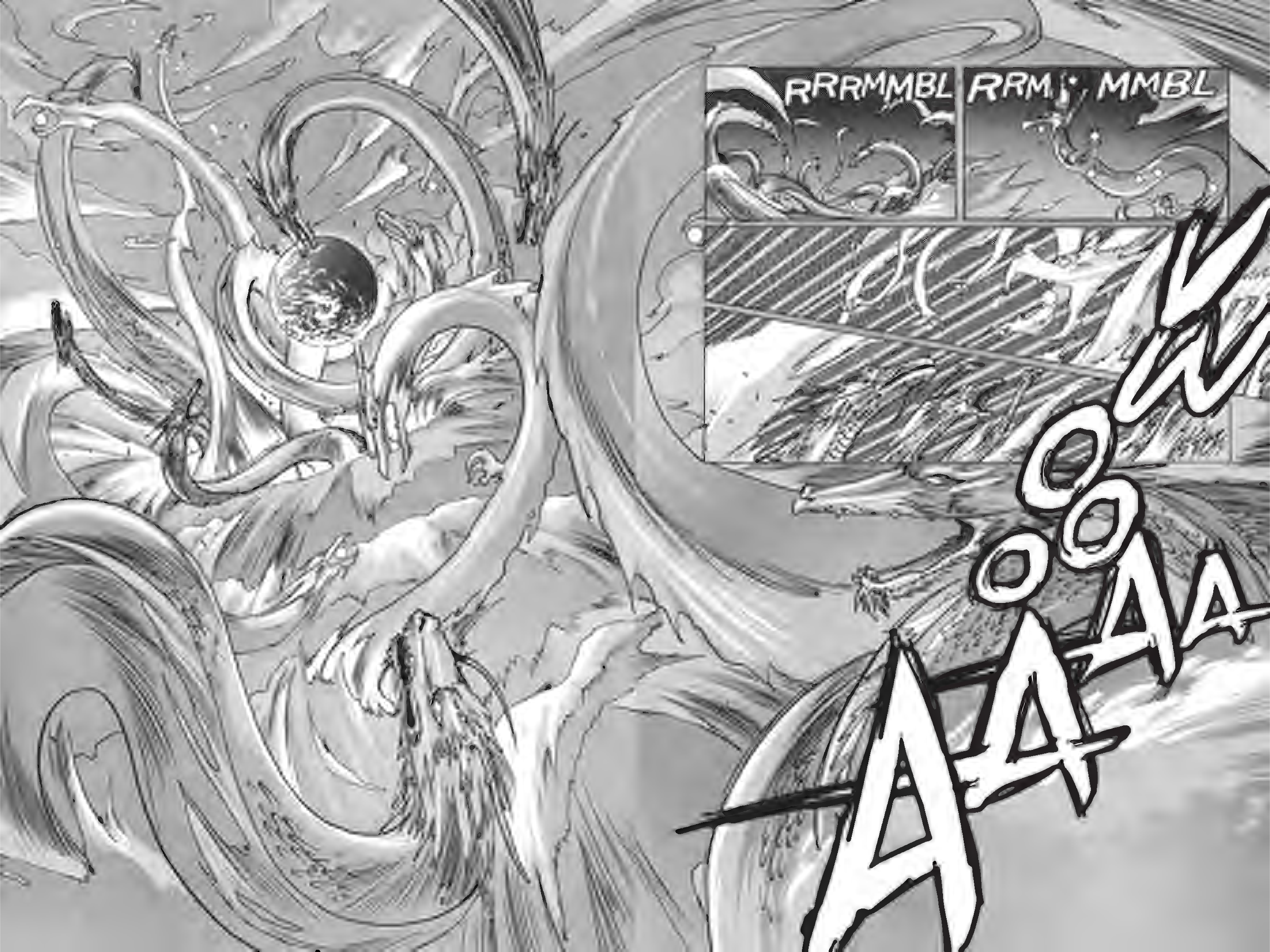

OOOOO
MMMMMM
SLITHR...
They are the Seven Angels.

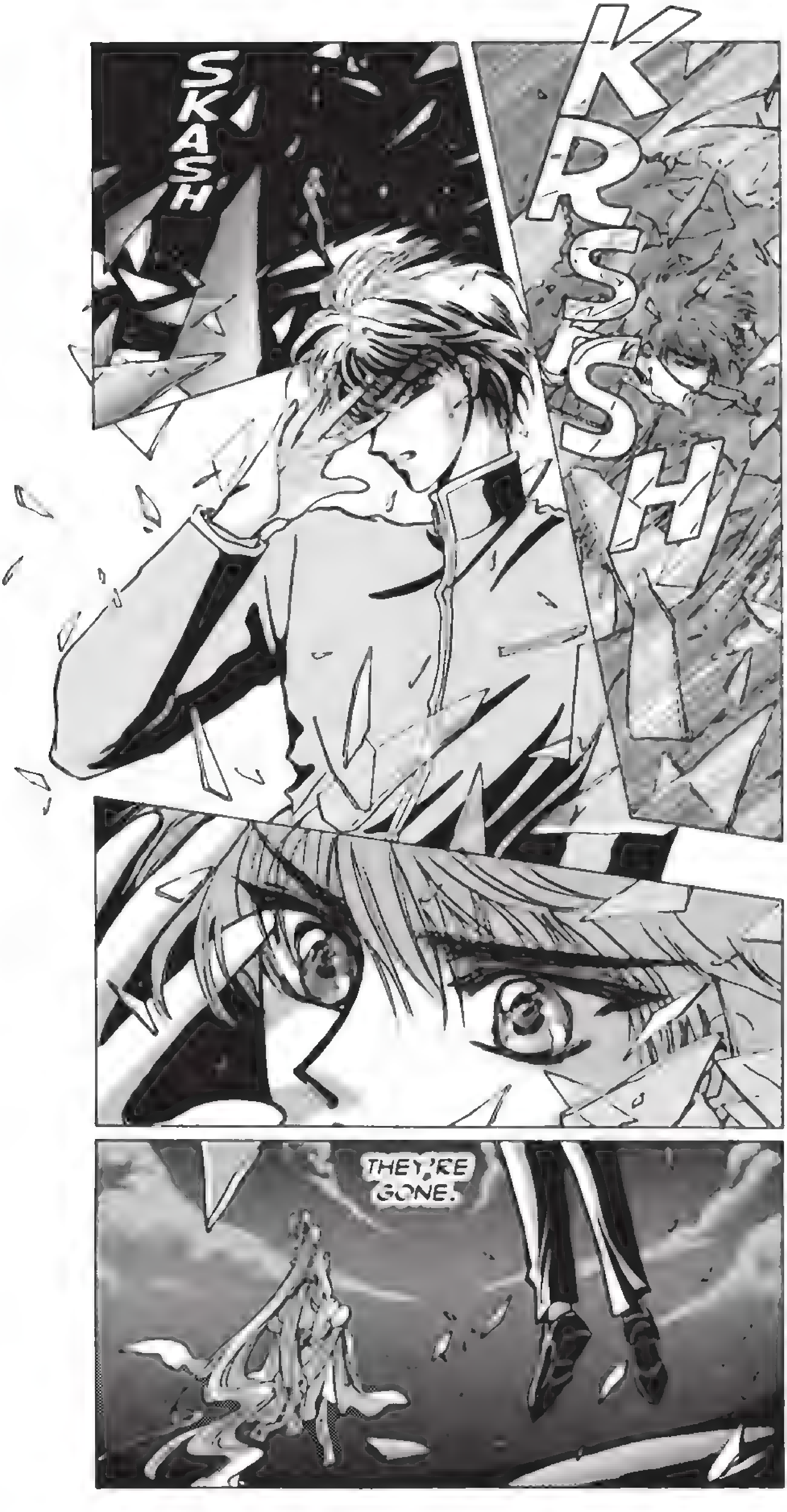

...Ka...mui...
Take back... the Sacred Sword...
The... kekkai...
The Seven Seals... must protect it... before the...
...the Angels...
“THE ANGELS” ...?
THE ONES THAT UNCLE KYOGO WAS TALKING ABOUT?
The only ones who can fight the Seven Angels...

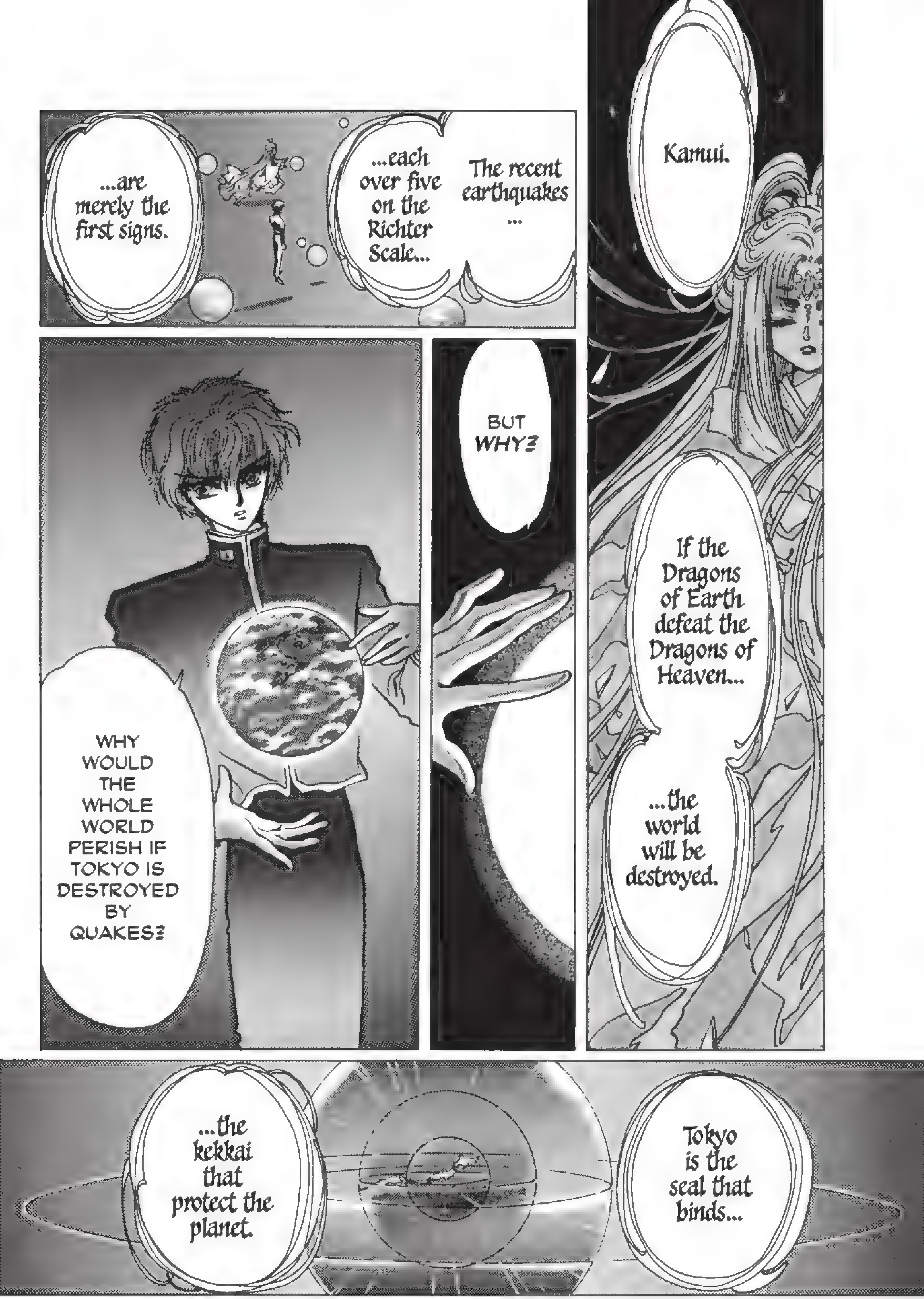

...and avert the destruction of the world...
...are...
MORE DRAGONS?
...the Dragons of Heaven.

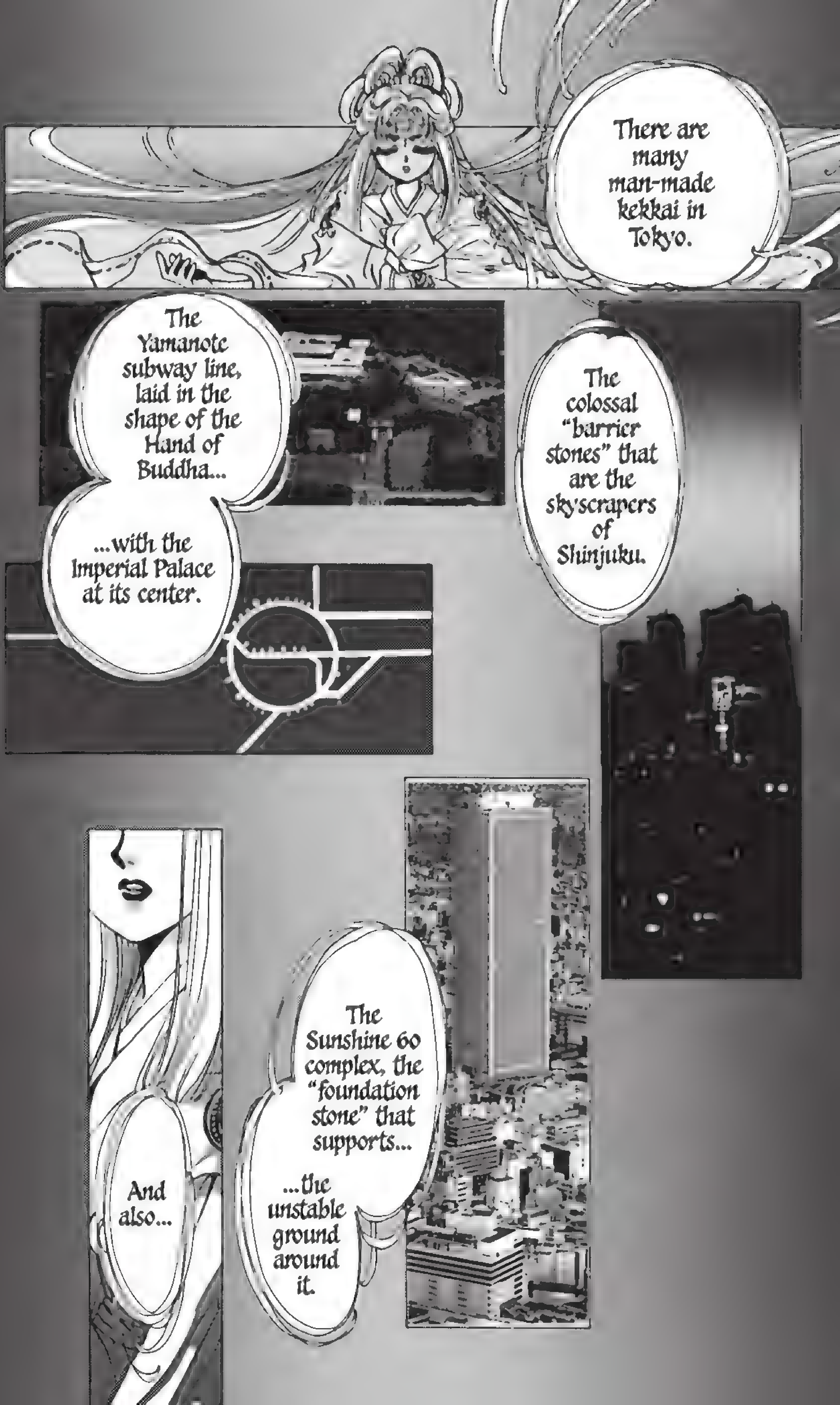

The Dragons of Heaven.
Seven stars in the sky.
URSA MAJOR...?
The seven people in this world...
...who can create the kekkai that can save the earth.
The Seven Seals.

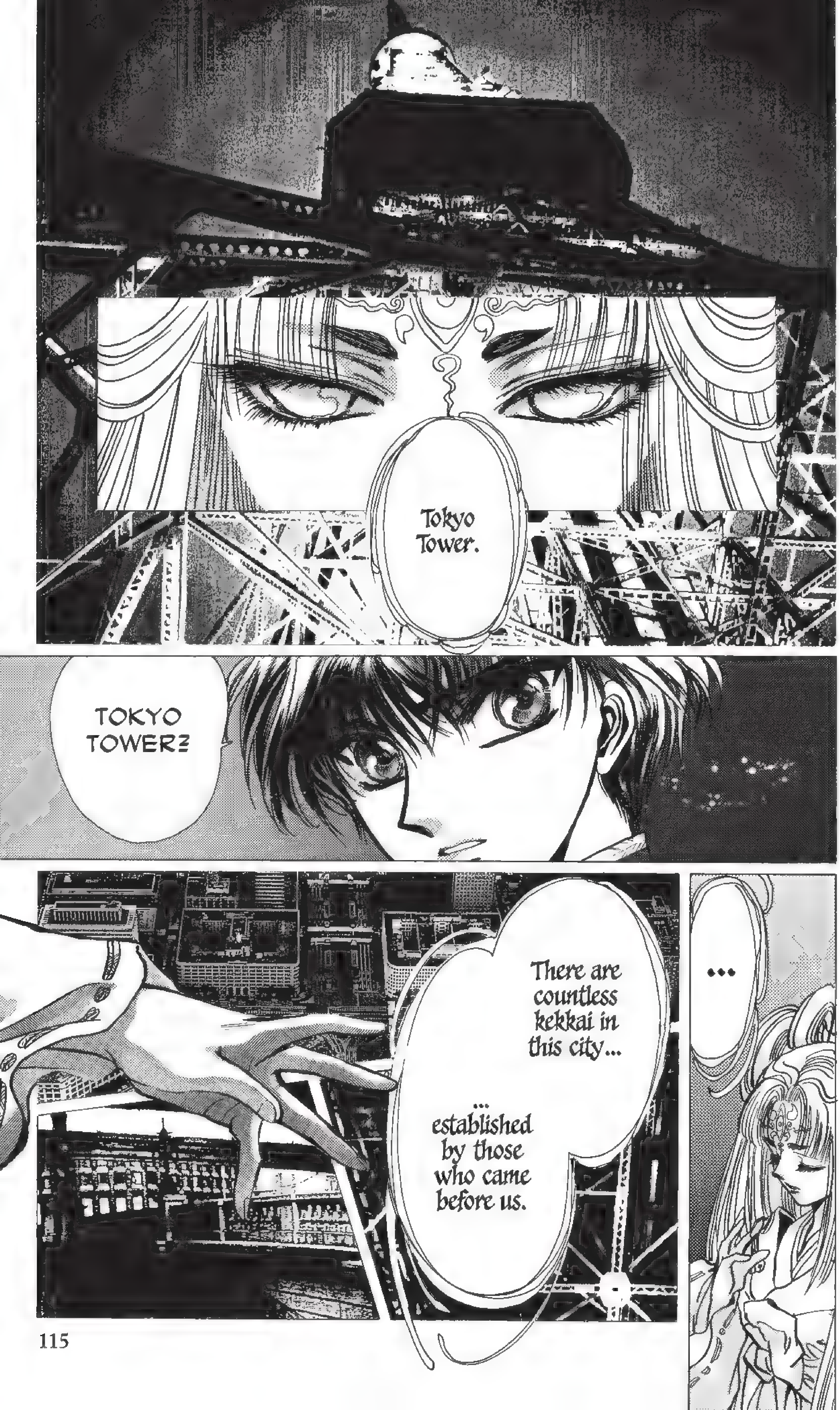

"THE SEVEN... SEALS"?
Dragons of Heaven.
Dragons of Earth.
The Seven Seals...
...and the Seven Angels.

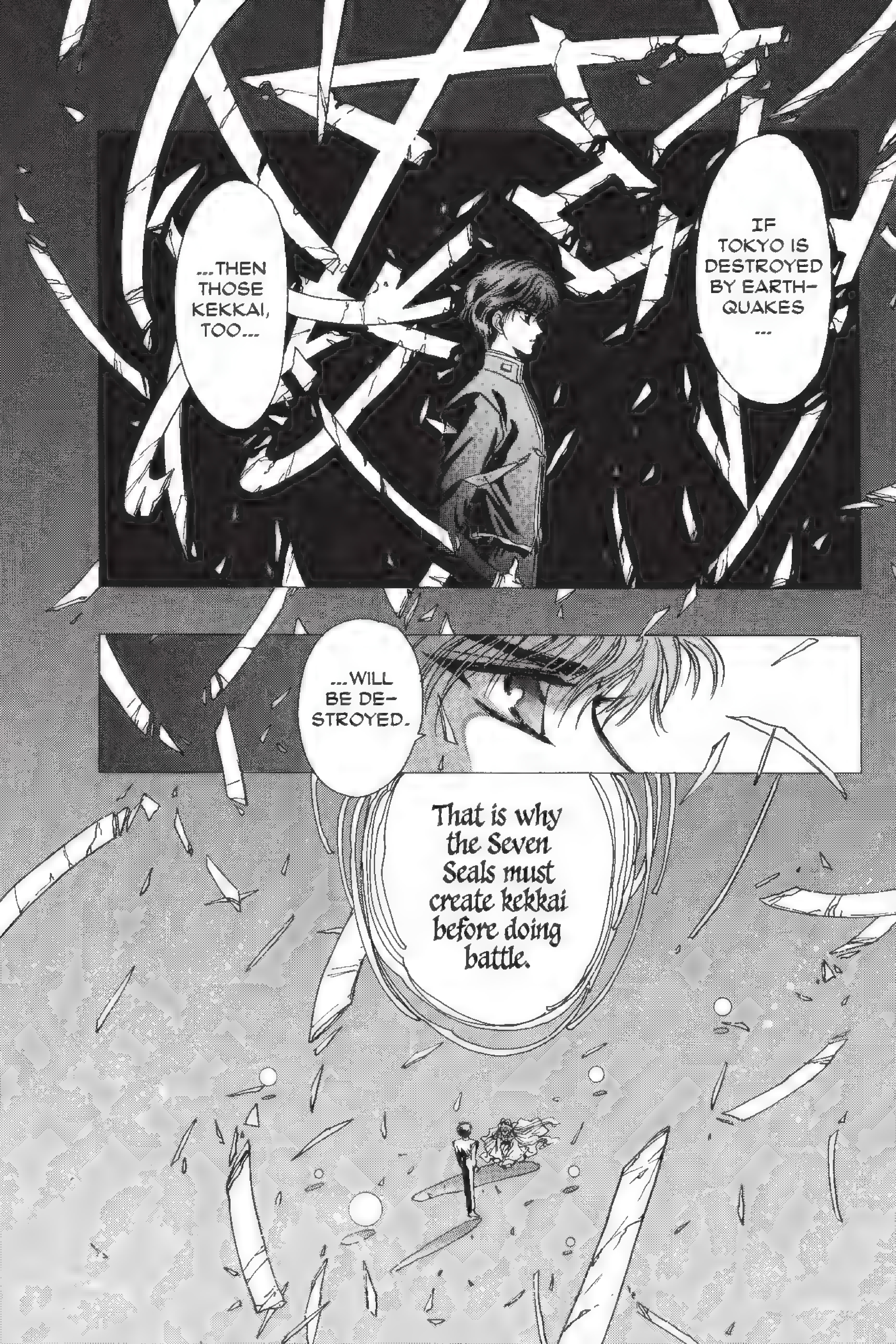

RRRMMBL
RRM MMBL
AAAAAOOOOW

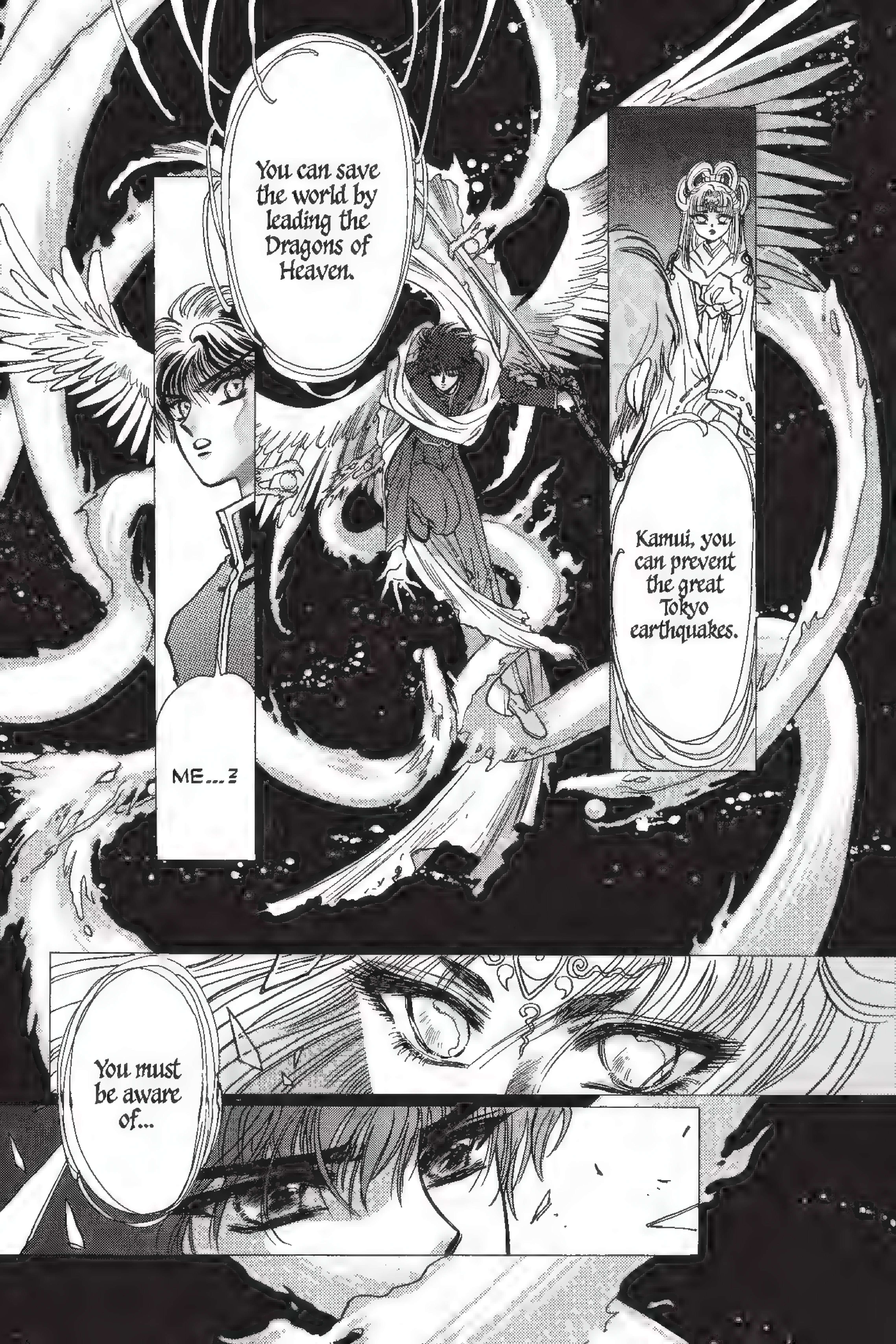

KRSSH
SKASH
THEY'RE GONE.

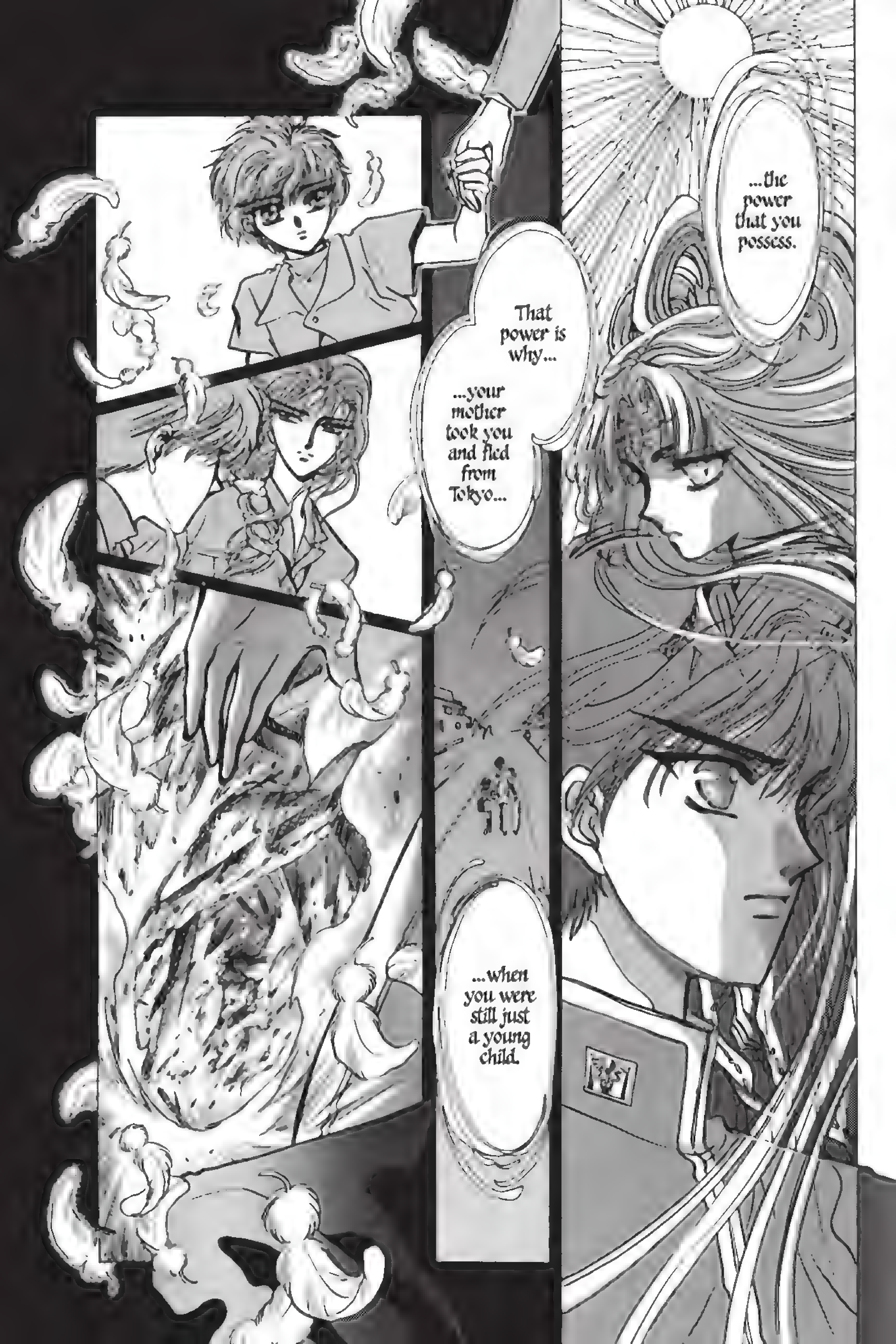

Kamui.
The recent earthquakes ...
...each over five on the Richter Scale...
...are merely the first signs.
If the Dragons of Earth defeat the Dragons of Heaven...
...the world will be destroyed.
BUT *WHY?*
WHY WOULD THE WHOLE WORLD PERISH IF TOKYO IS DESTROYED BY QUAKES?
Tokyo is the seal that binds...
...the kekkai that protect the planet.

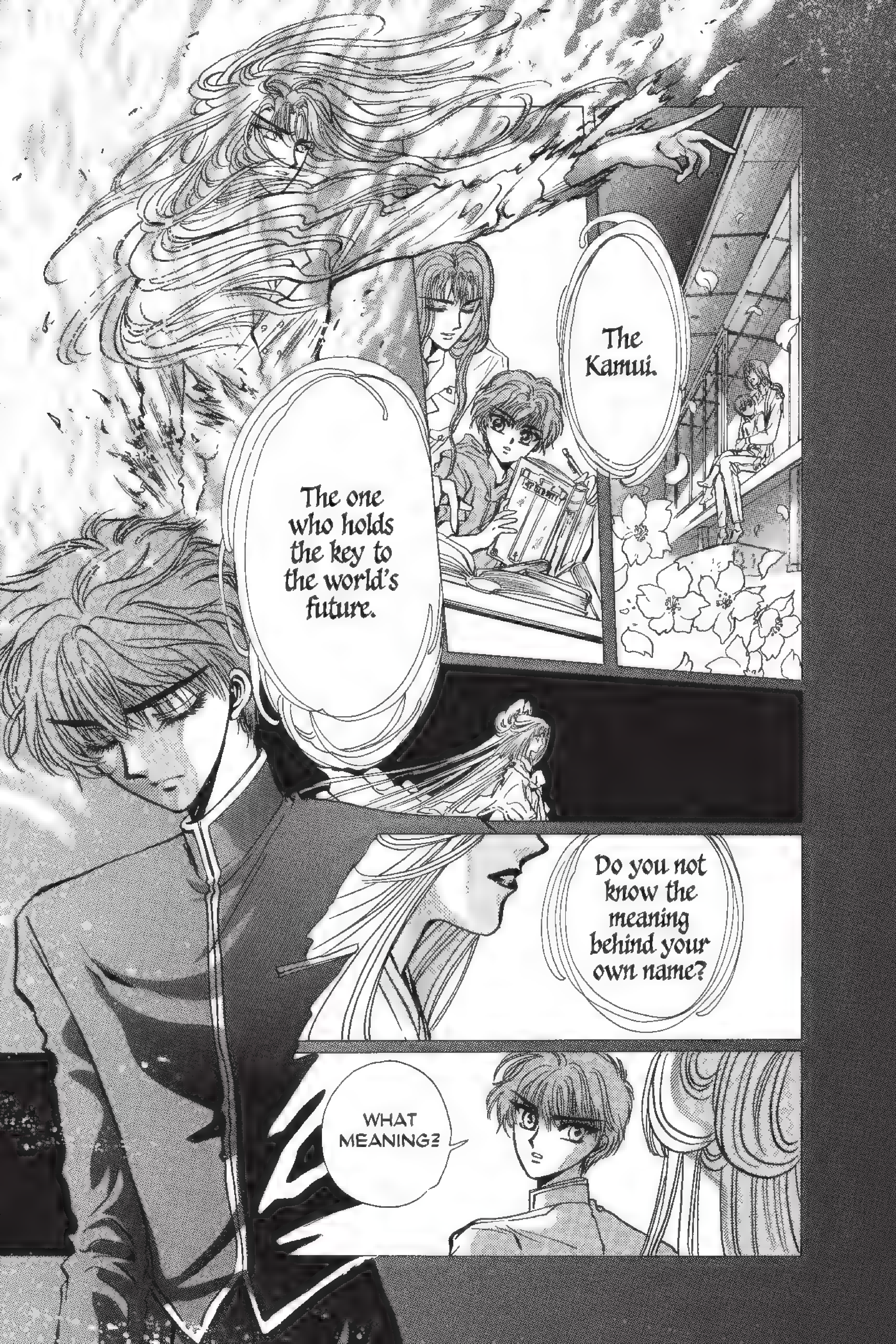

There are many man-made kekkai in Tokyo.
The colossal "barrier stones" that are the skyscrapers of Shinjuku.
The Yamanote subway line, laid in the shape of the Hand of Buddha...
...with the Imperial Palace at its center.
The Sunshine 60 complex, the "foundation stone" that supports...
...the unstable ground around it.
And also...

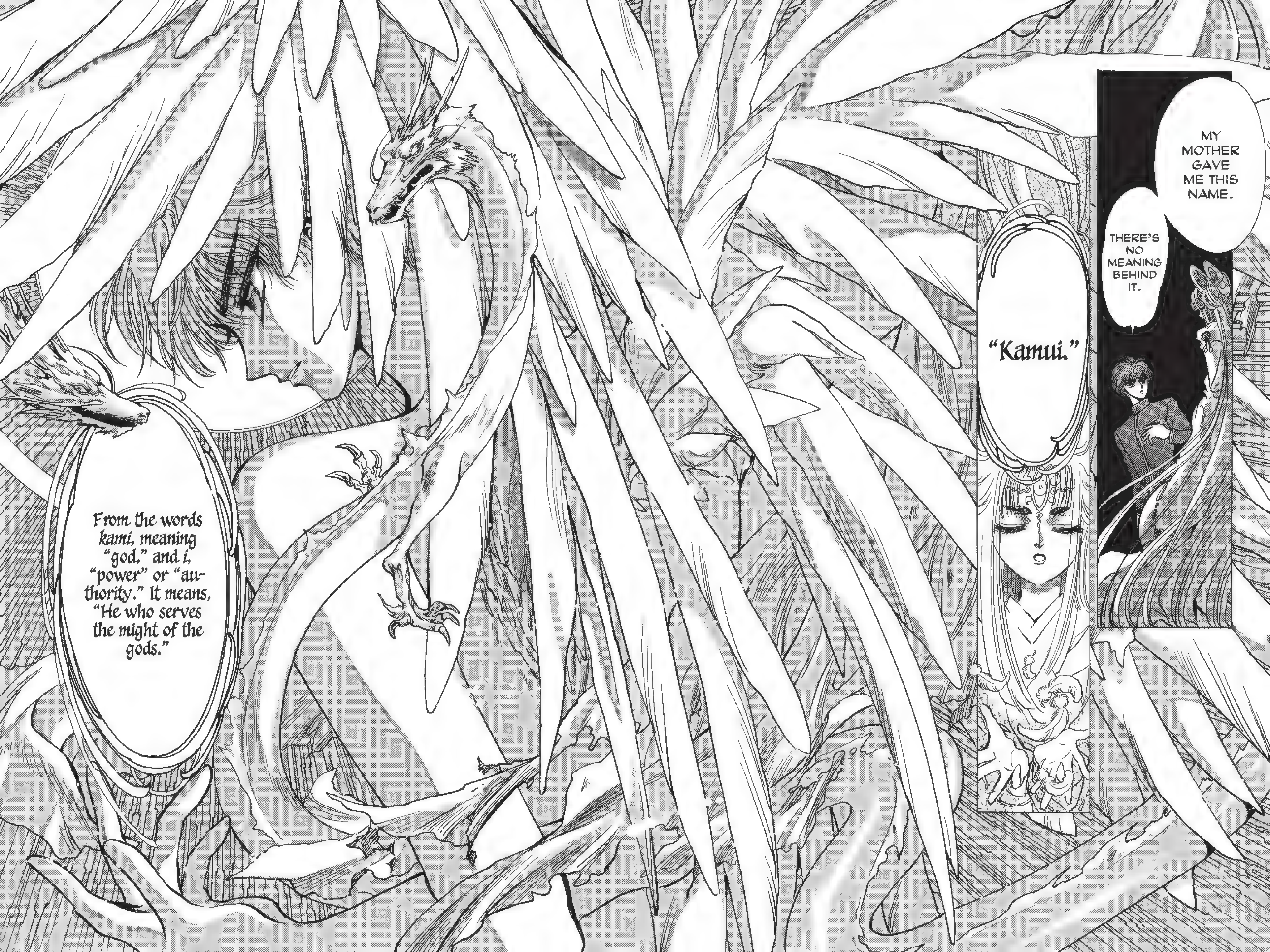

Tokyo Tower.
TOKYO TOWER?
...
There are countless kekkai in this city...
... established by those who came before us.

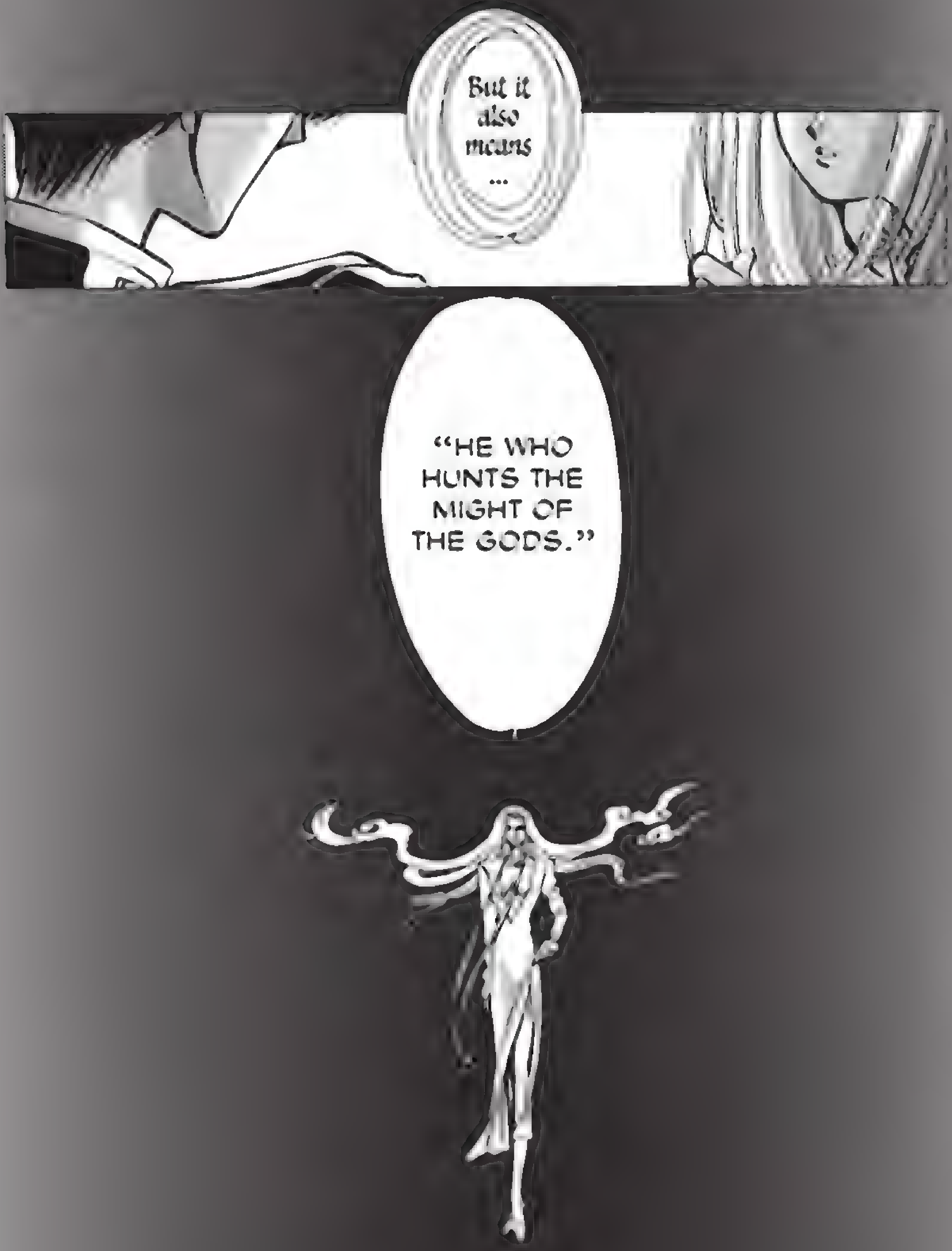

IF TOKYO IS DESTROYED BY EARTHQUAKES ...
...THEN THOSE KEKKAI, TOO...
...WILL BE DESTROYED.
That is why the Seven Seals must create kekkai before doing battle.

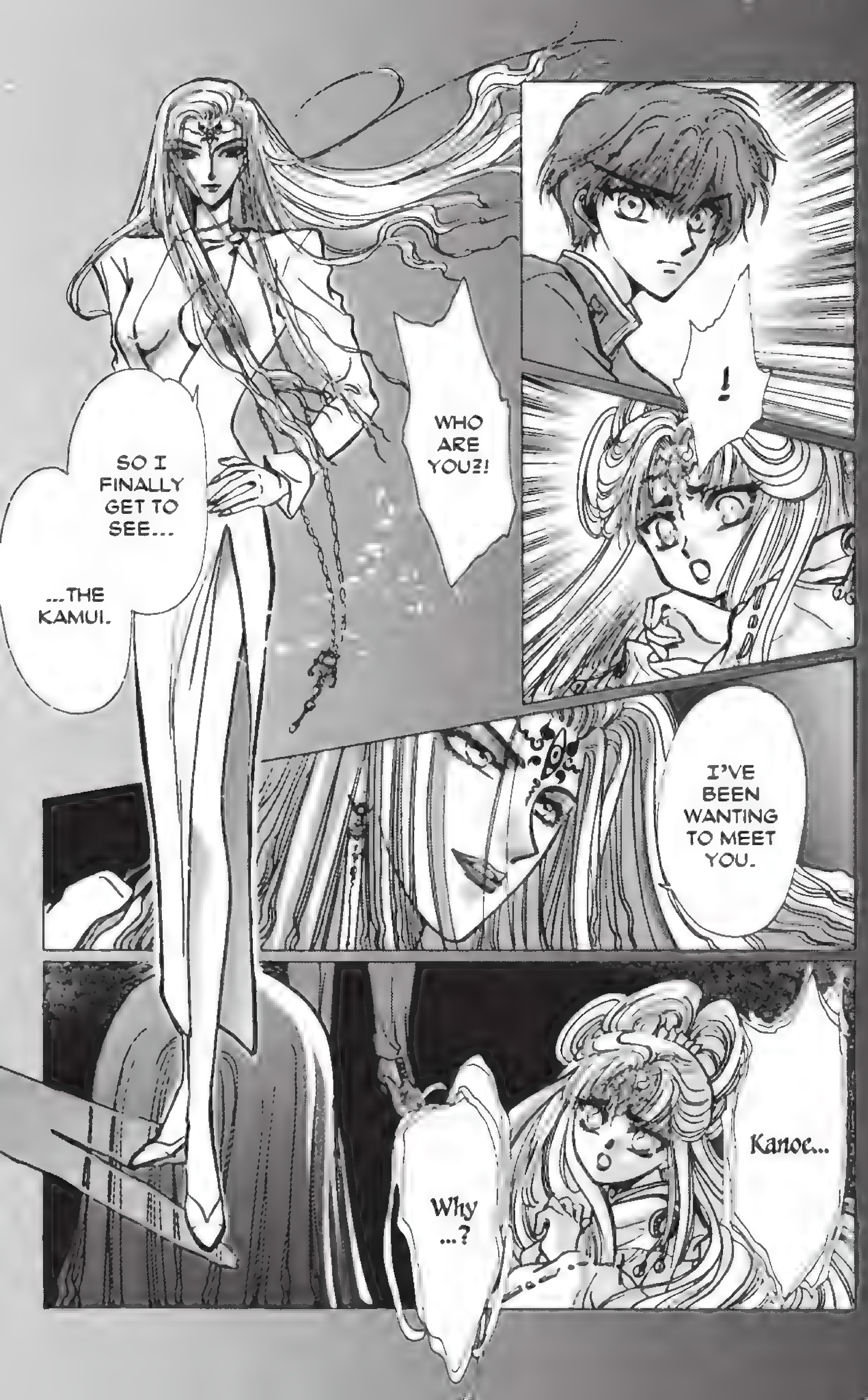

Kamui, you can prevent the great Tokyo earthquakes.
You can save the world by leading the Dragons of Heaven.
ME...?
You must be aware of...

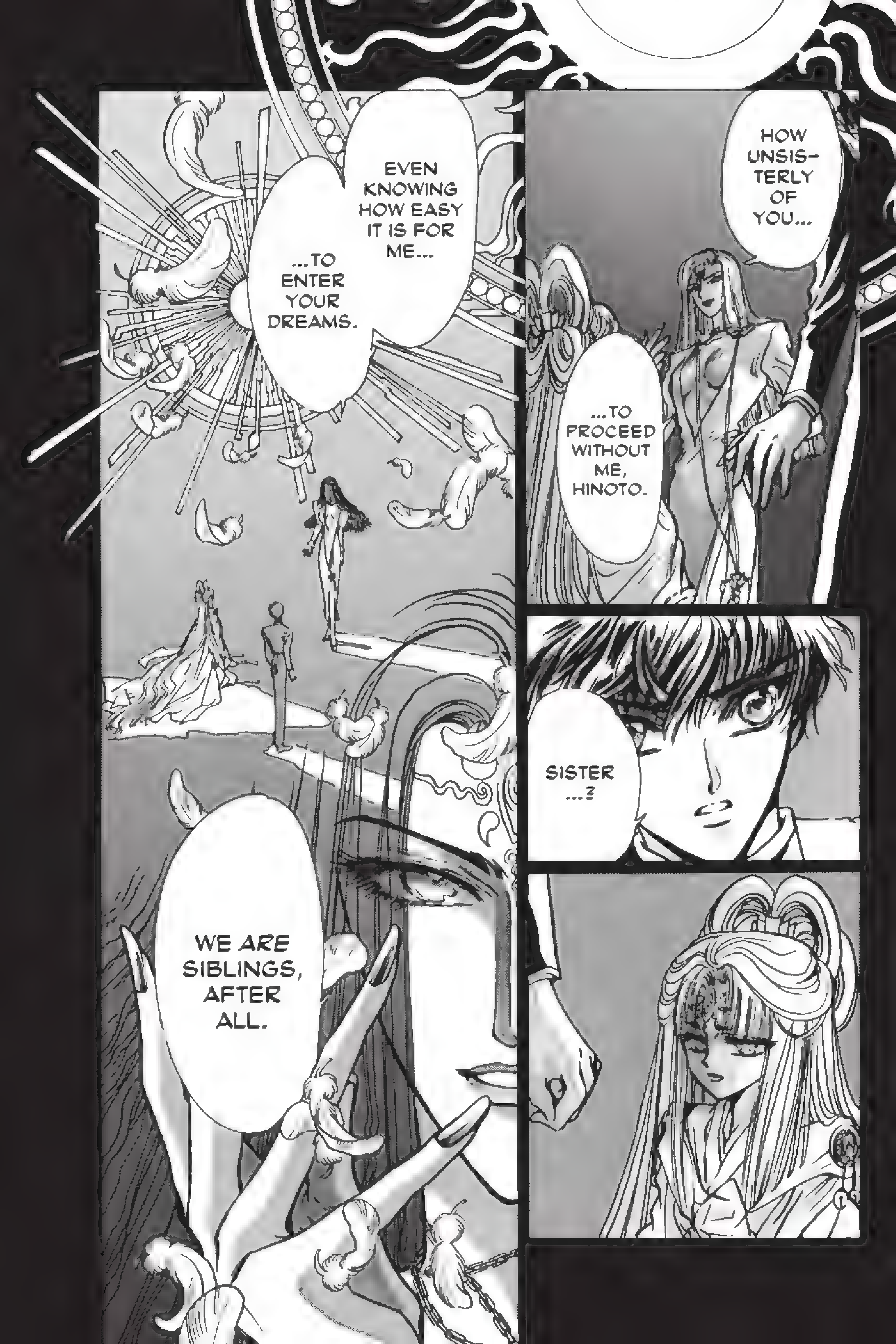

...the power that you possess.
That power is why...
...your mother took you and fled from Tokyo...
...when you were still just a young child.

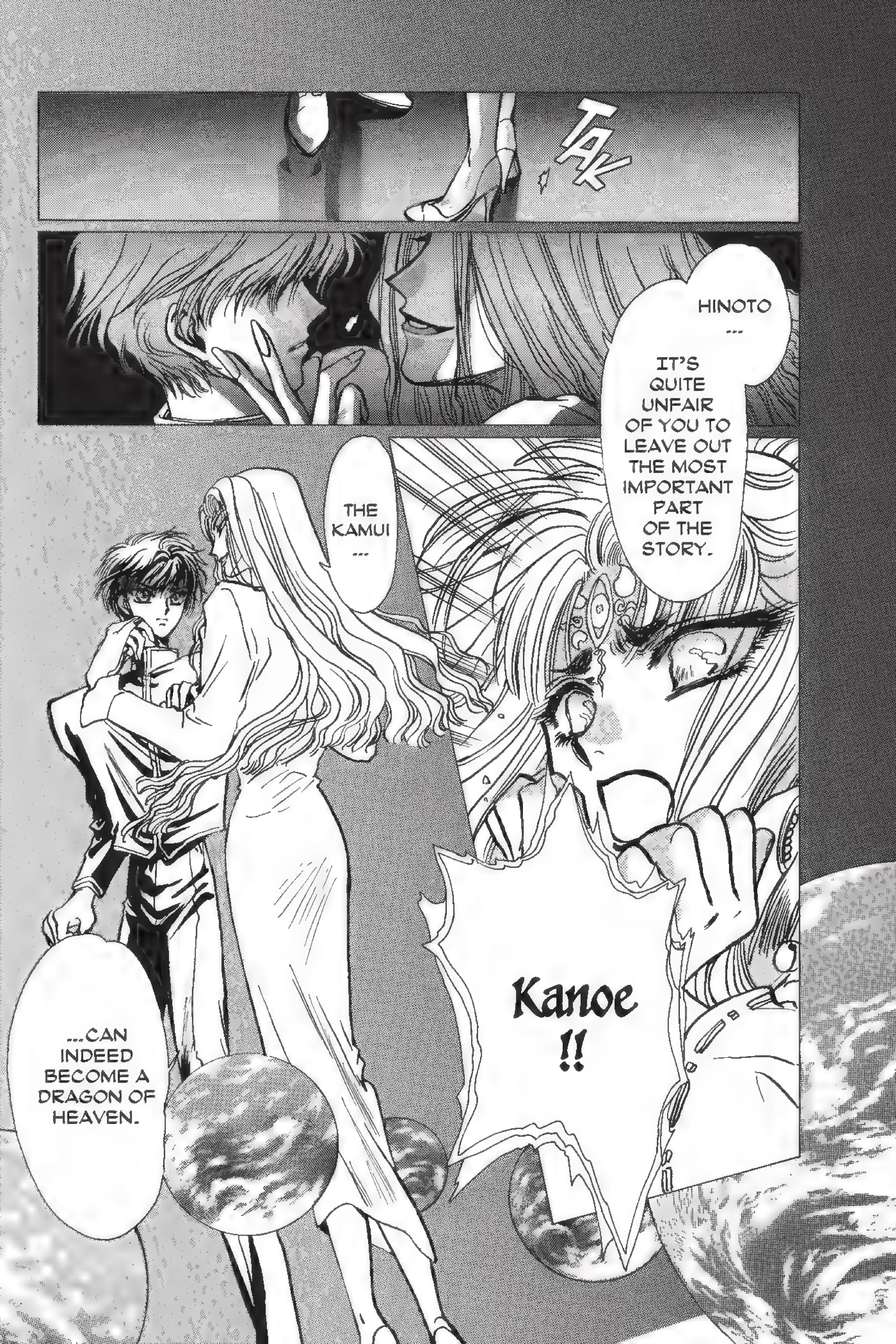

The Kamui.
The one who holds the key to the world's future.
Do you not know the meaning behind your own name?
WHAT MEANING?

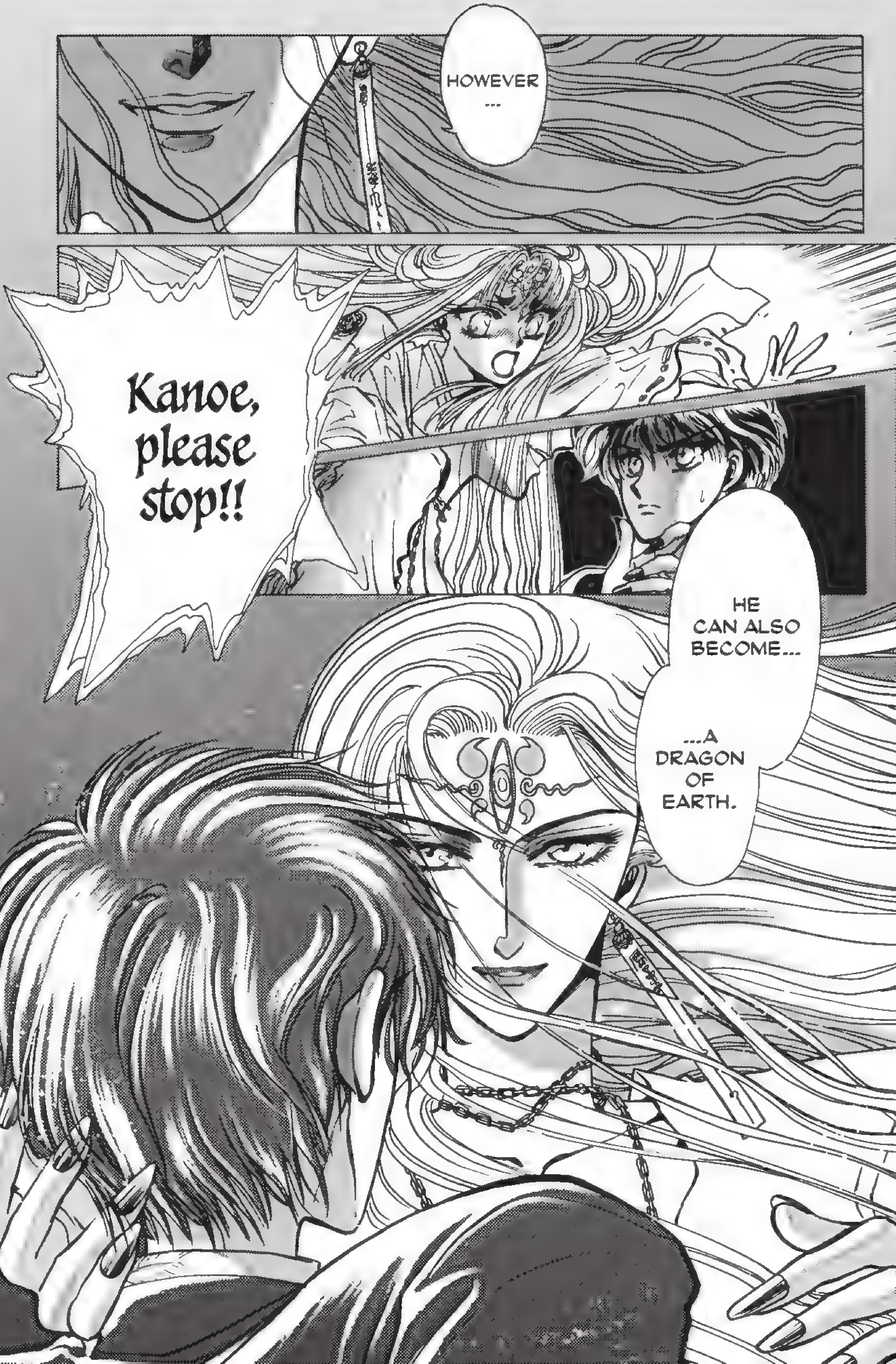

MY MOTHER GAVE ME THIS NAME.
THERE'S NO MEANING BEHIND IT.
"Kamui."
From the words *kami*, meaning "god," and *i*, "power" or "authority." It means, "He who serves the might of the gods."

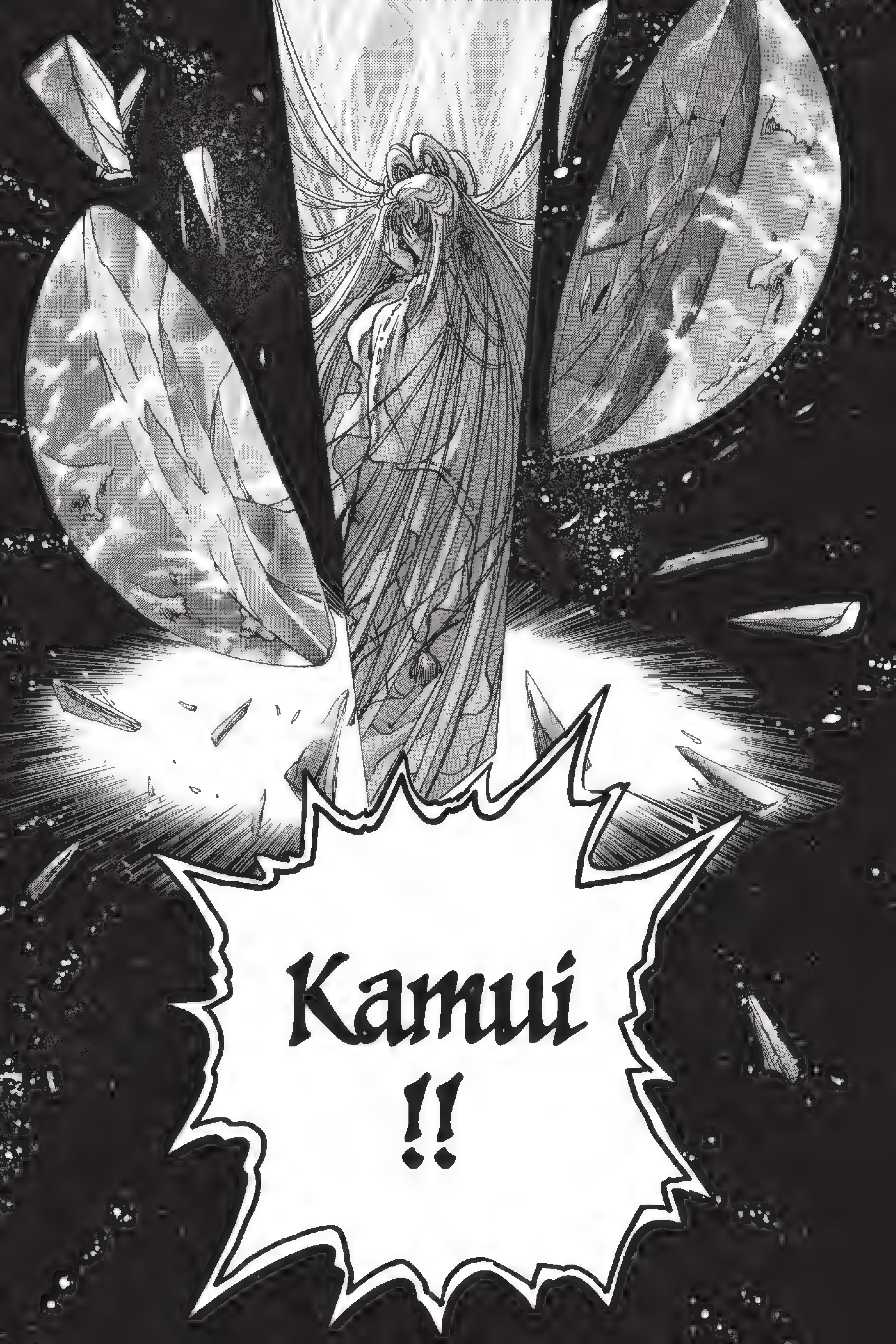

But it also means ...
"HE WHO HUNTS THE MIGHT OF THE GODS."

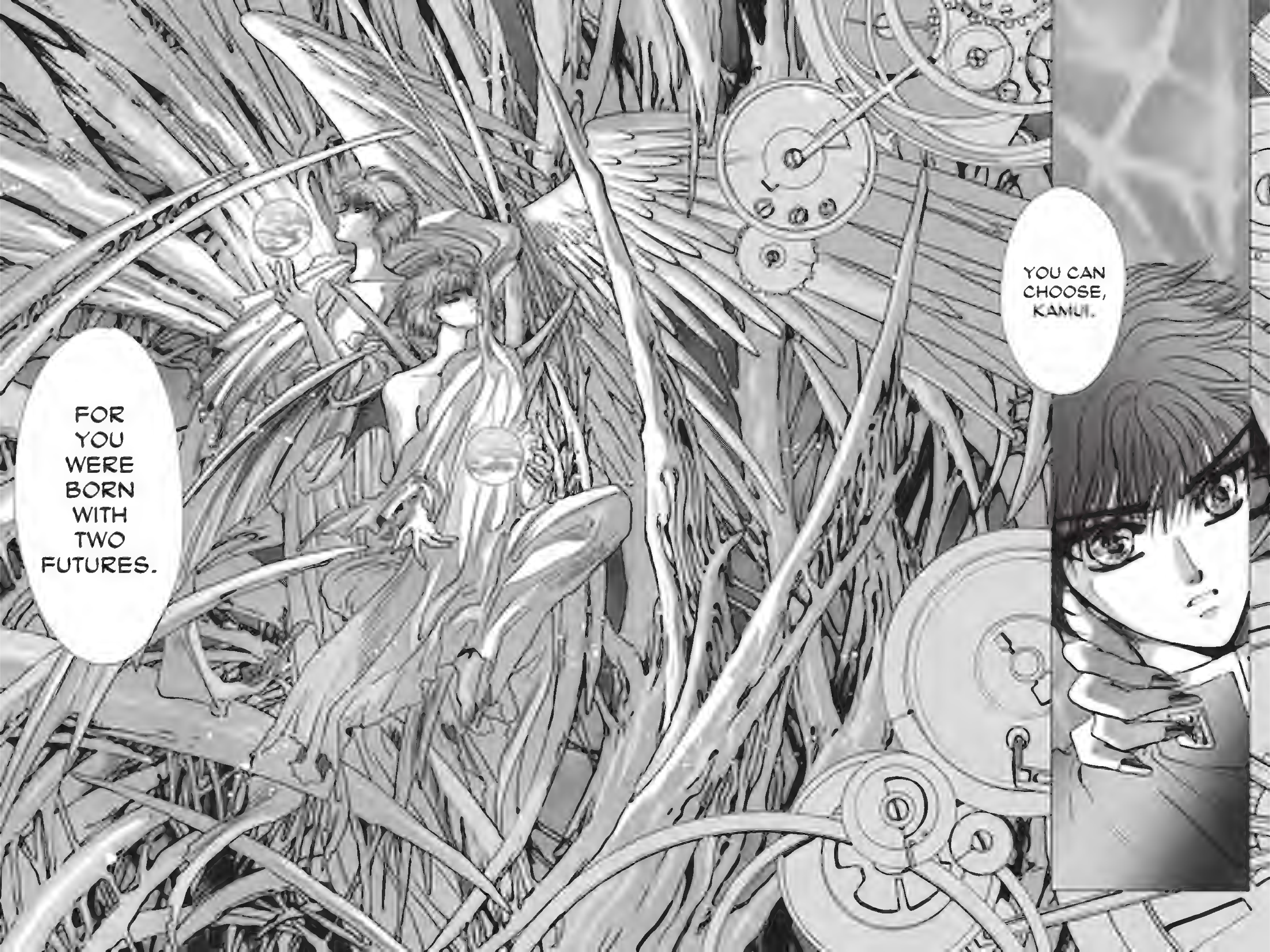

!
WHO ARE YOU?!
SO I FINALLY GET TO SEE...
...THE KAMUI.
I'VE BEEN WANTING TO MEET YOU.
Kanoe...
Why ...?

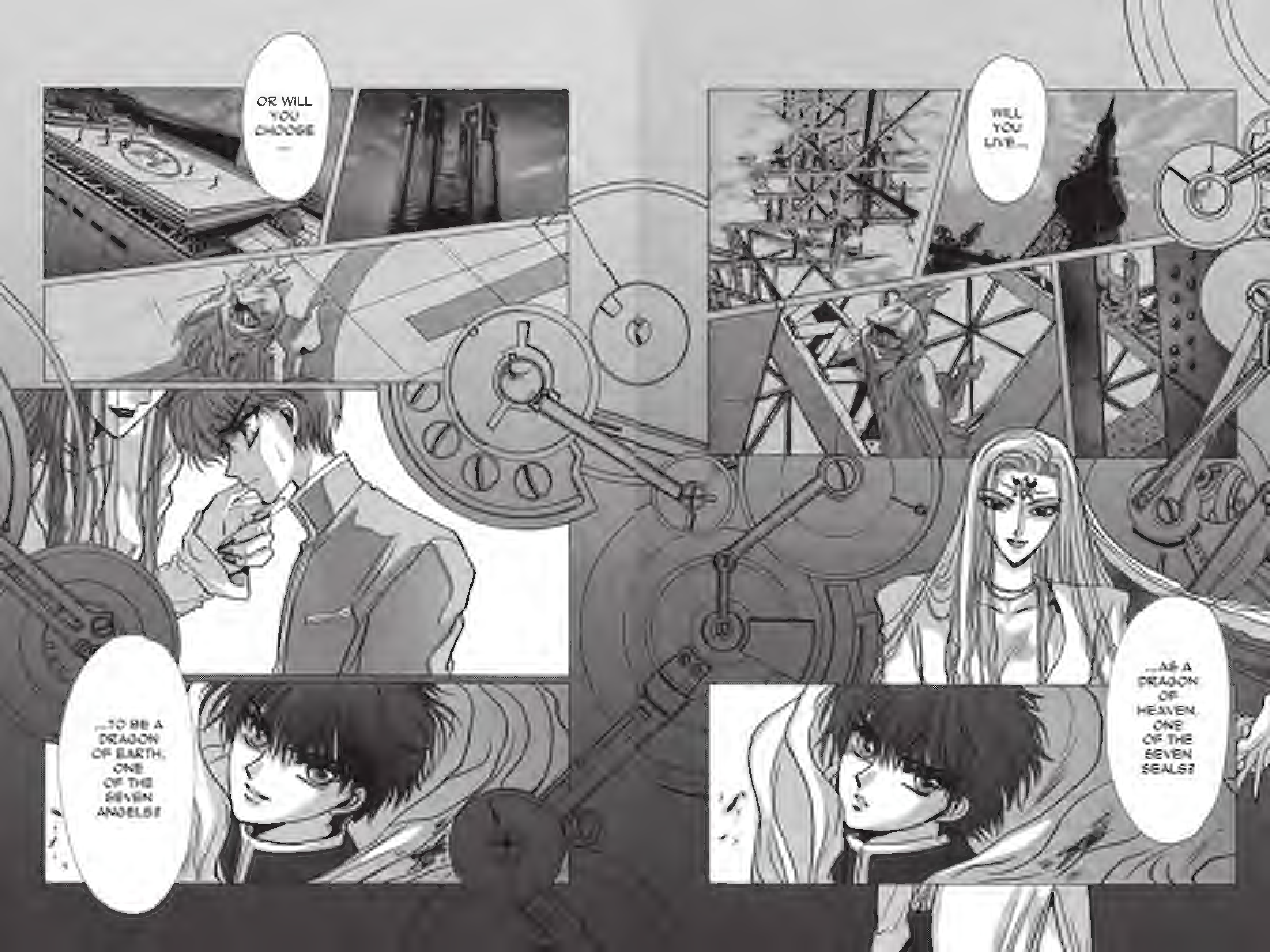

HOW UNSISTERLY OF YOU...
...TO PROCEED WITHOUT ME, HINOTO.
EVEN KNOWING HOW EASY IT IS FOR ME...
...TO ENTER YOUR DREAMS.
SISTER ...?
WE *ARE* SIBLINGS, AFTER ALL.

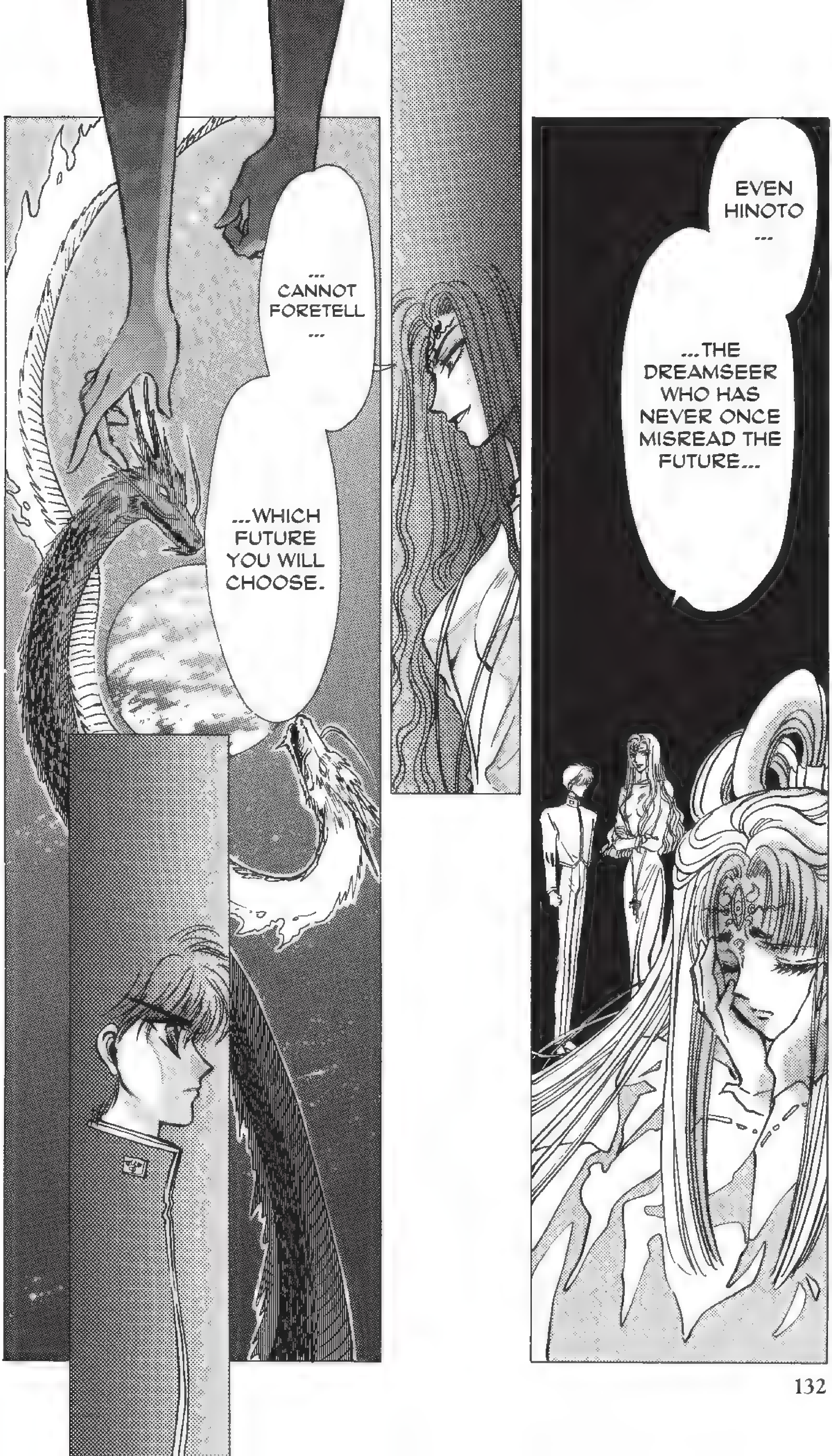

TAK
HINOTO ... IT'S QUITE UNFAIR OF YOU TO LEAVE OUT THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE STORY.
Kanoe !!
THE KAMUI ...
...CAN INDEED BECOME A DRAGON OF HEAVEN.

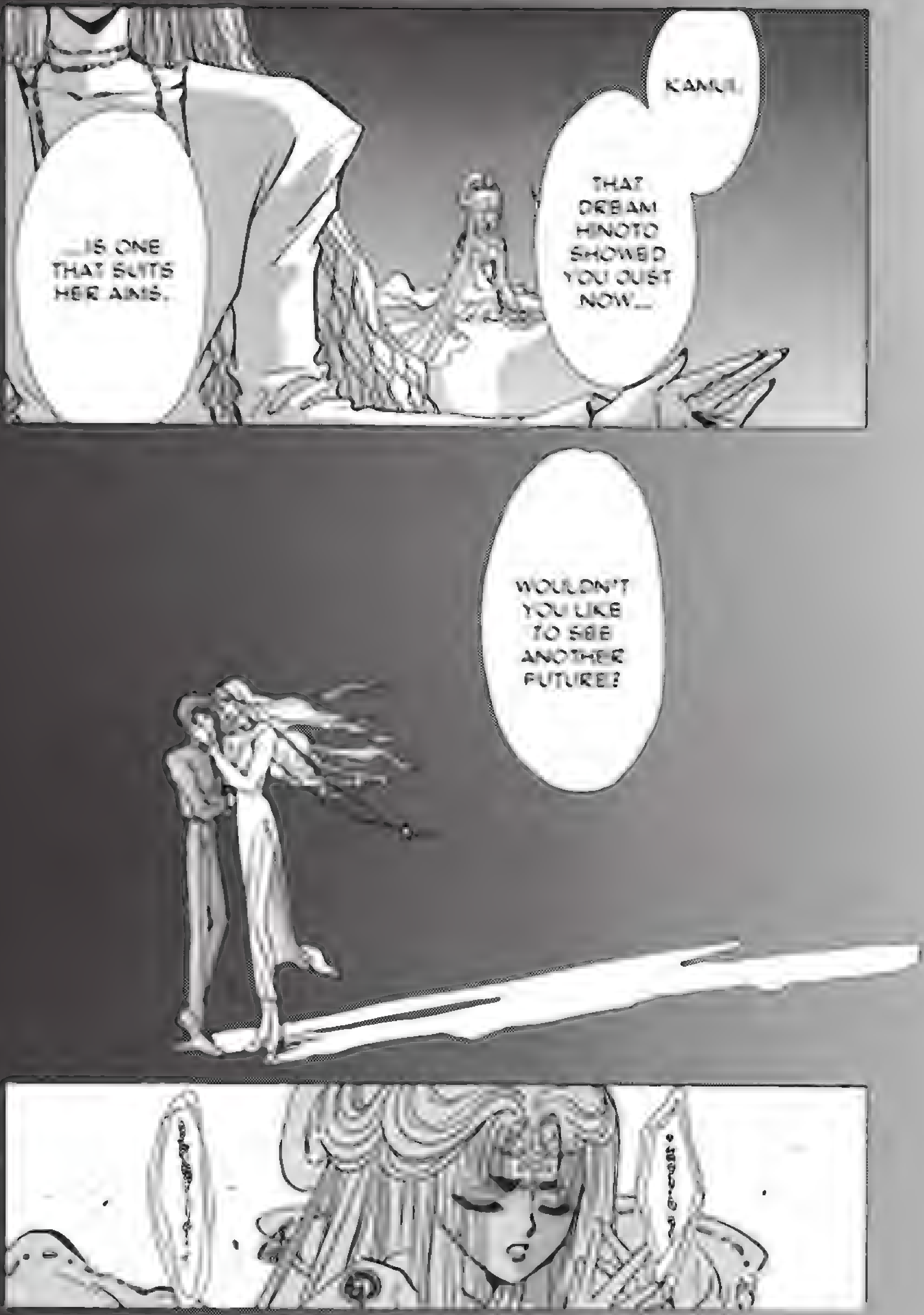

HOWEVER ...
Kanoe, please stop!!
HE CAN ALSO BECOME...
...A DRAGON OF EARTH.

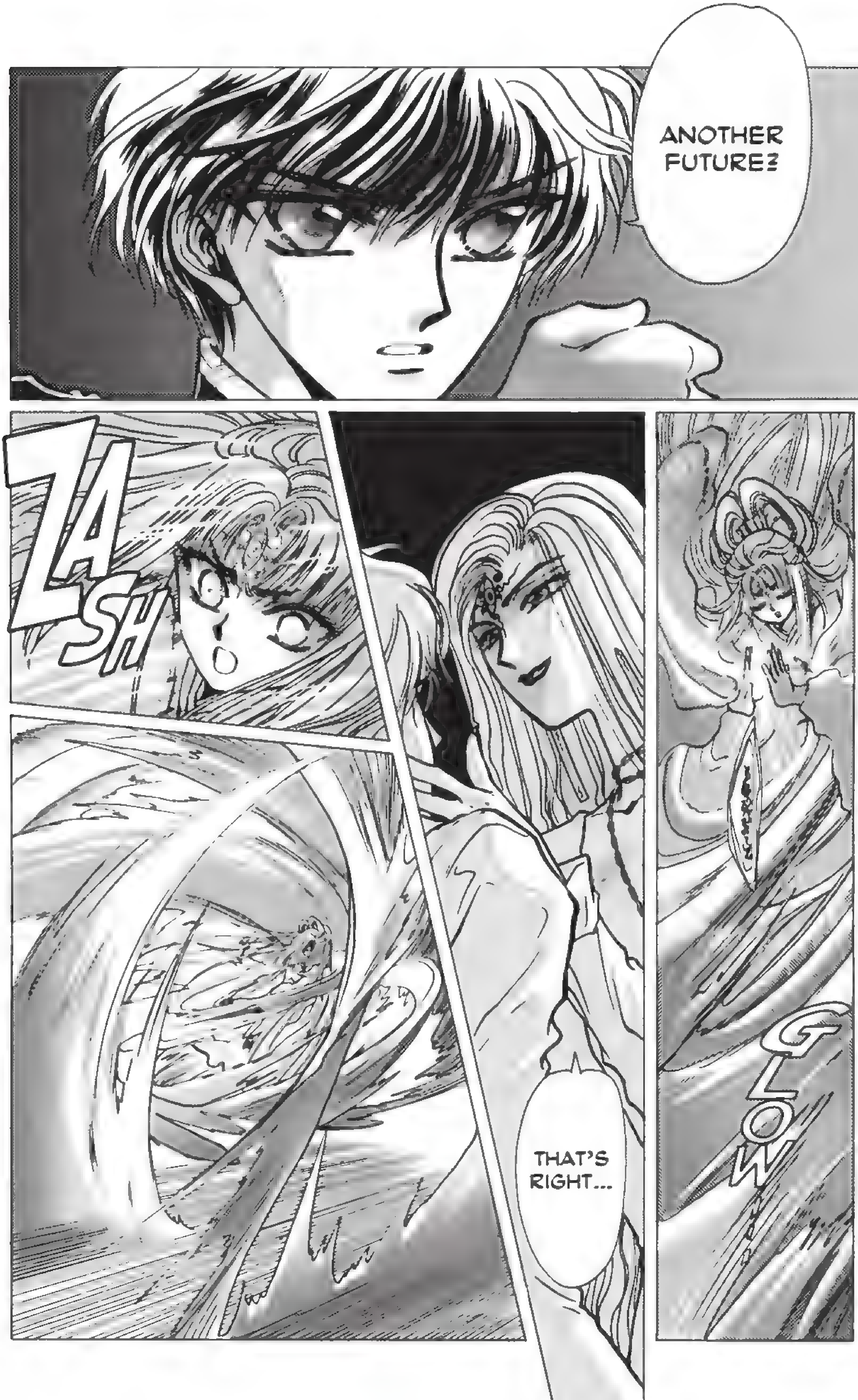

Kamui !!

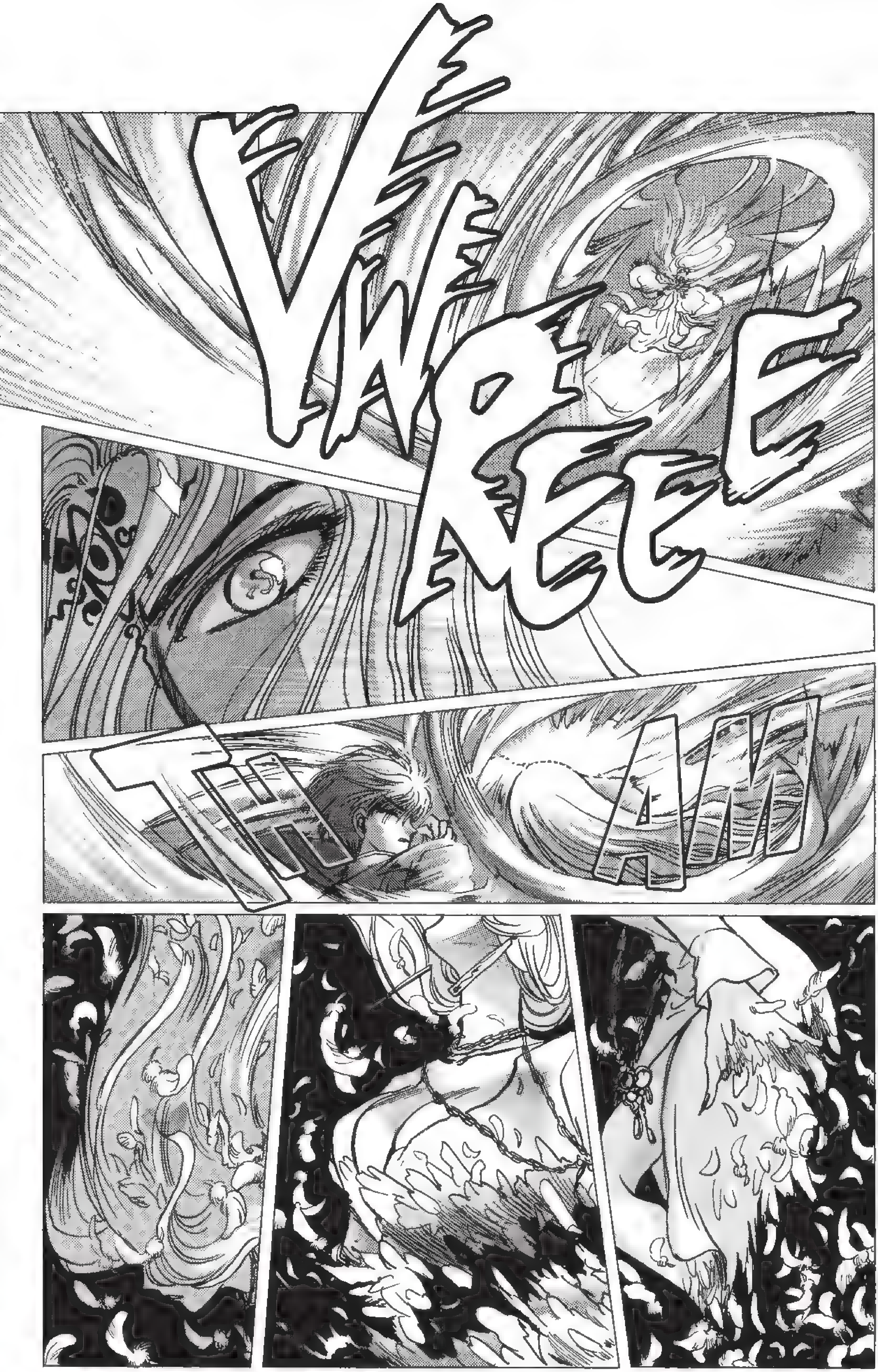

YOU CAN CHOOSE, KAMUI.
FOR YOU WERE BORN WITH TWO FUTURES.

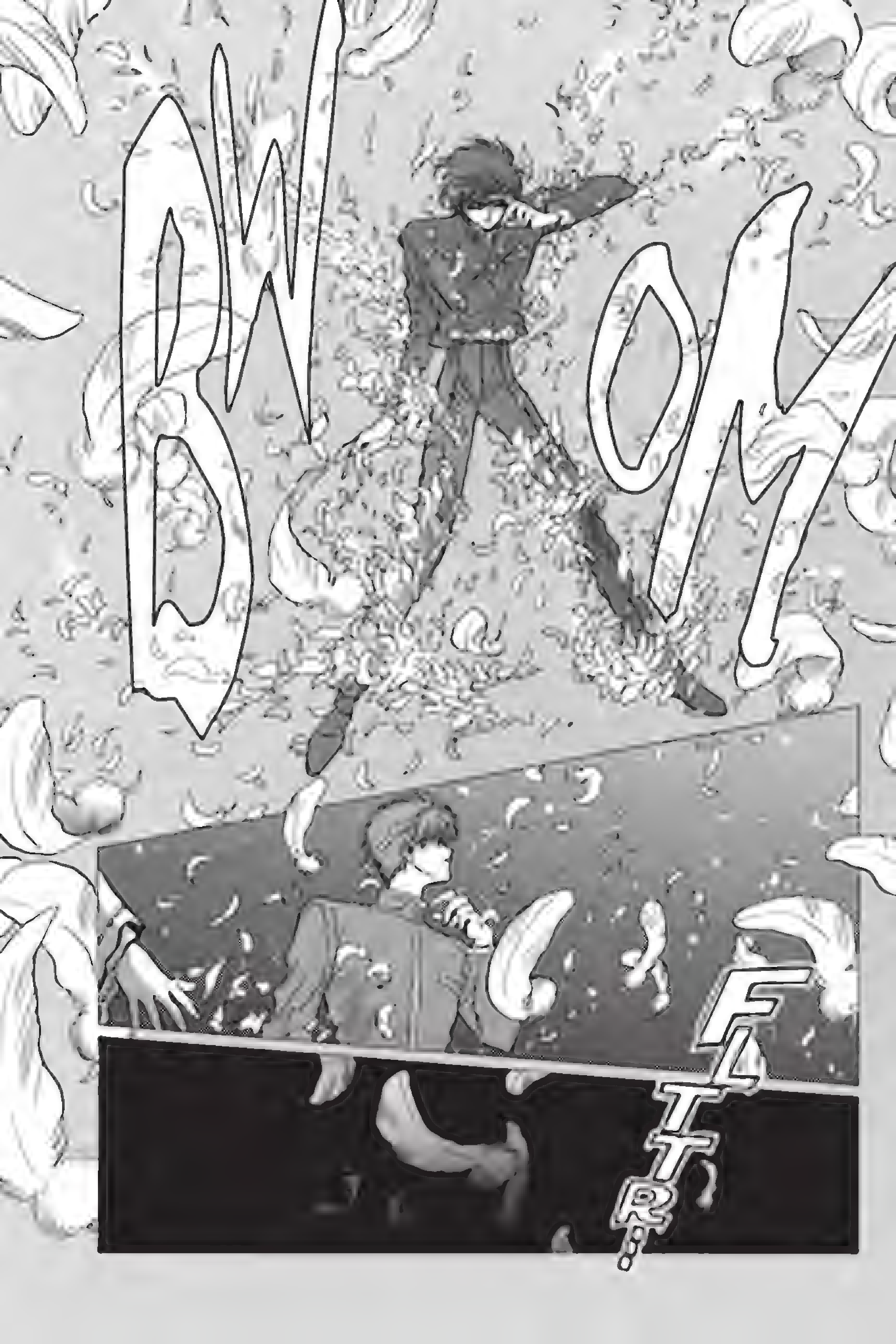

WILL YOU LIVE...
...AS A DRAGON OF HEAVEN, ONE OF THE SEVEN SEALS?
OR WILL YOU CHOOSE ...
...TO BE A DRAGON OF EARTH, ONE OF THE SEVEN ANGELS?

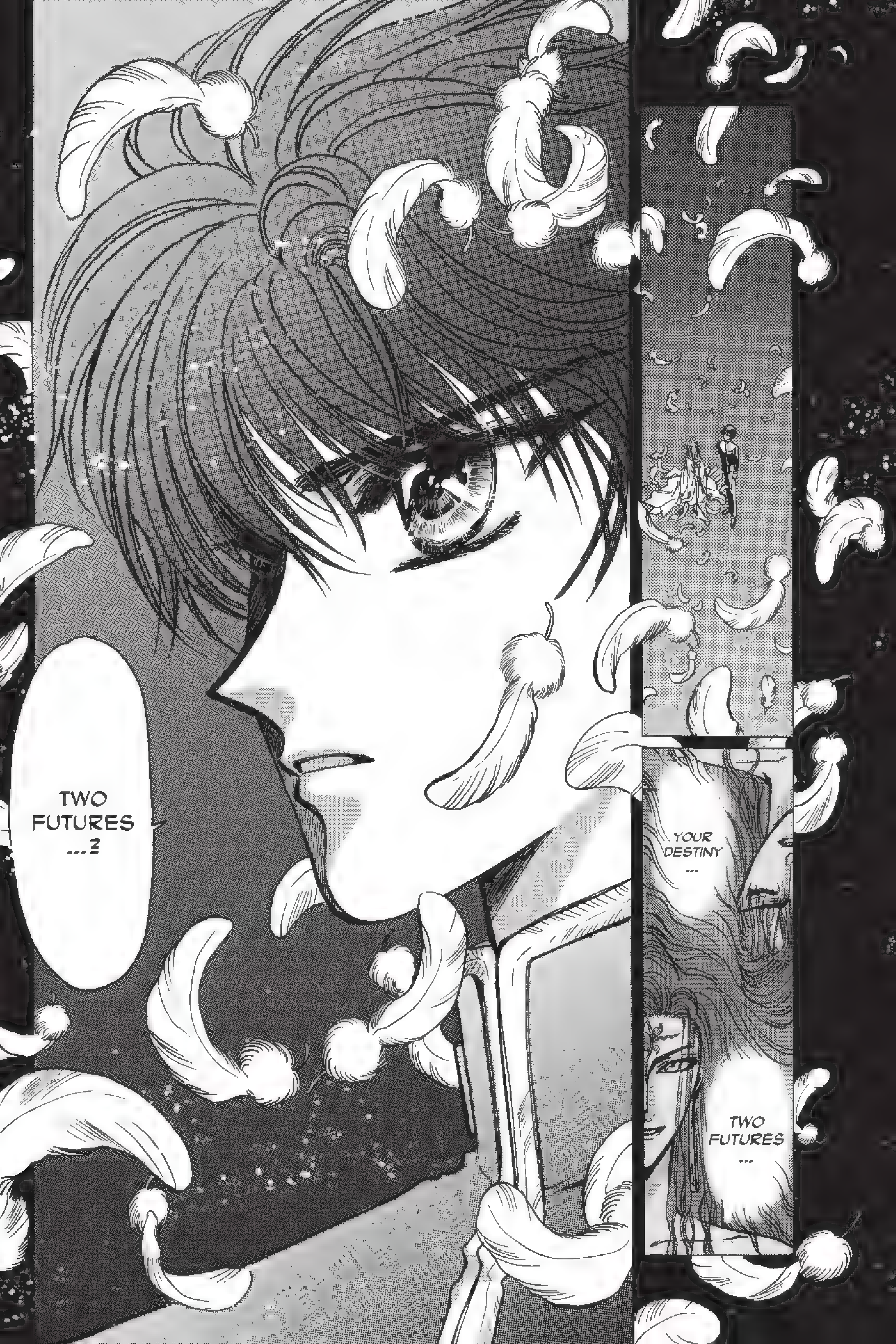

EVEN HINOTO ...
...THE DREAMSEER WHO HAS NEVER ONCE MISREAD THE FUTURE...
... CANNOT FORETELL ...
...WHICH FUTURE YOU WILL CHOOSE.

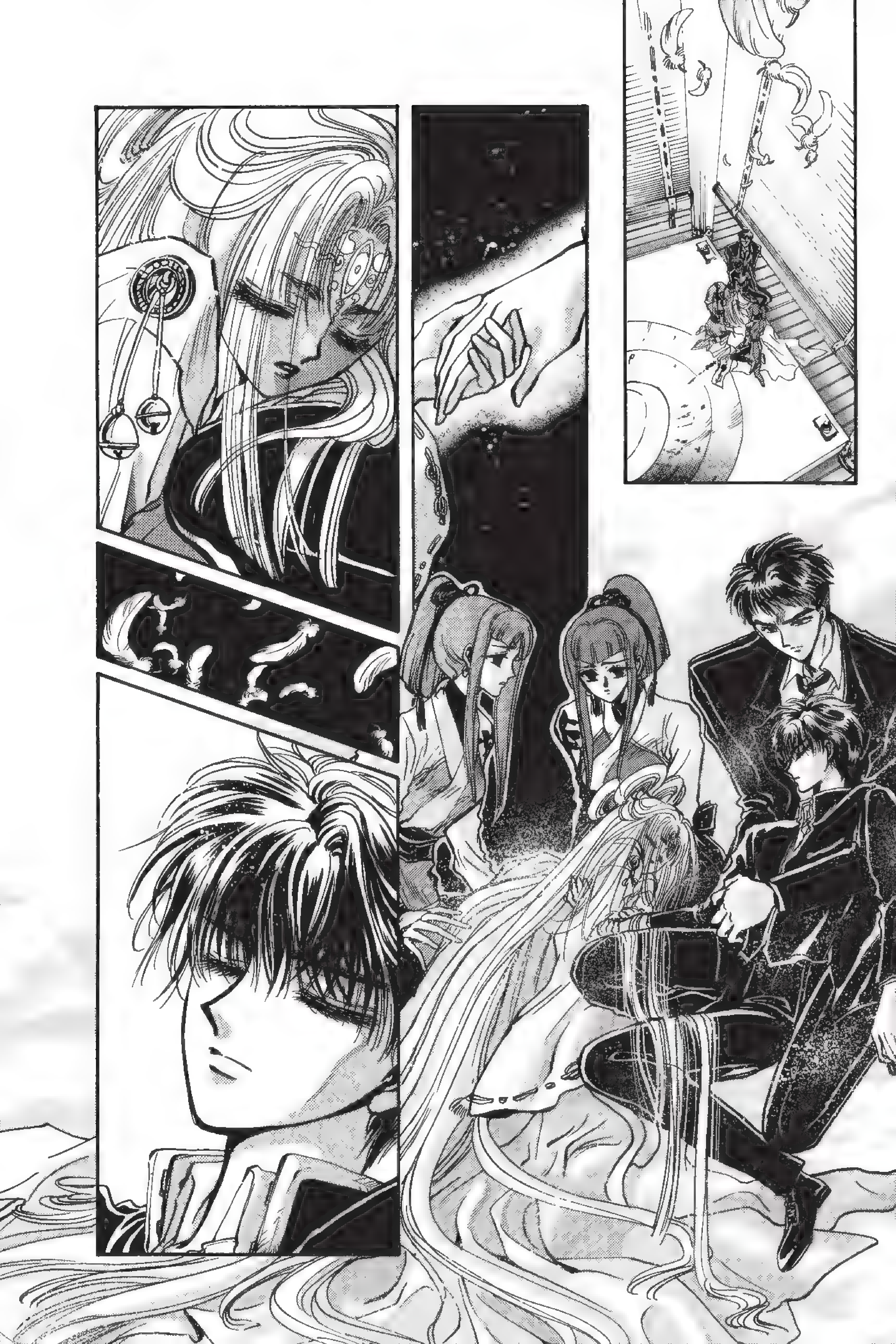

KAMUI.
THAT DREAM HINOTO SHOWED YOU JUST NOW...
...IS ONE THAT SUITS HER AIMS.
WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO SEE ANOTHER FUTURE?
......?
......

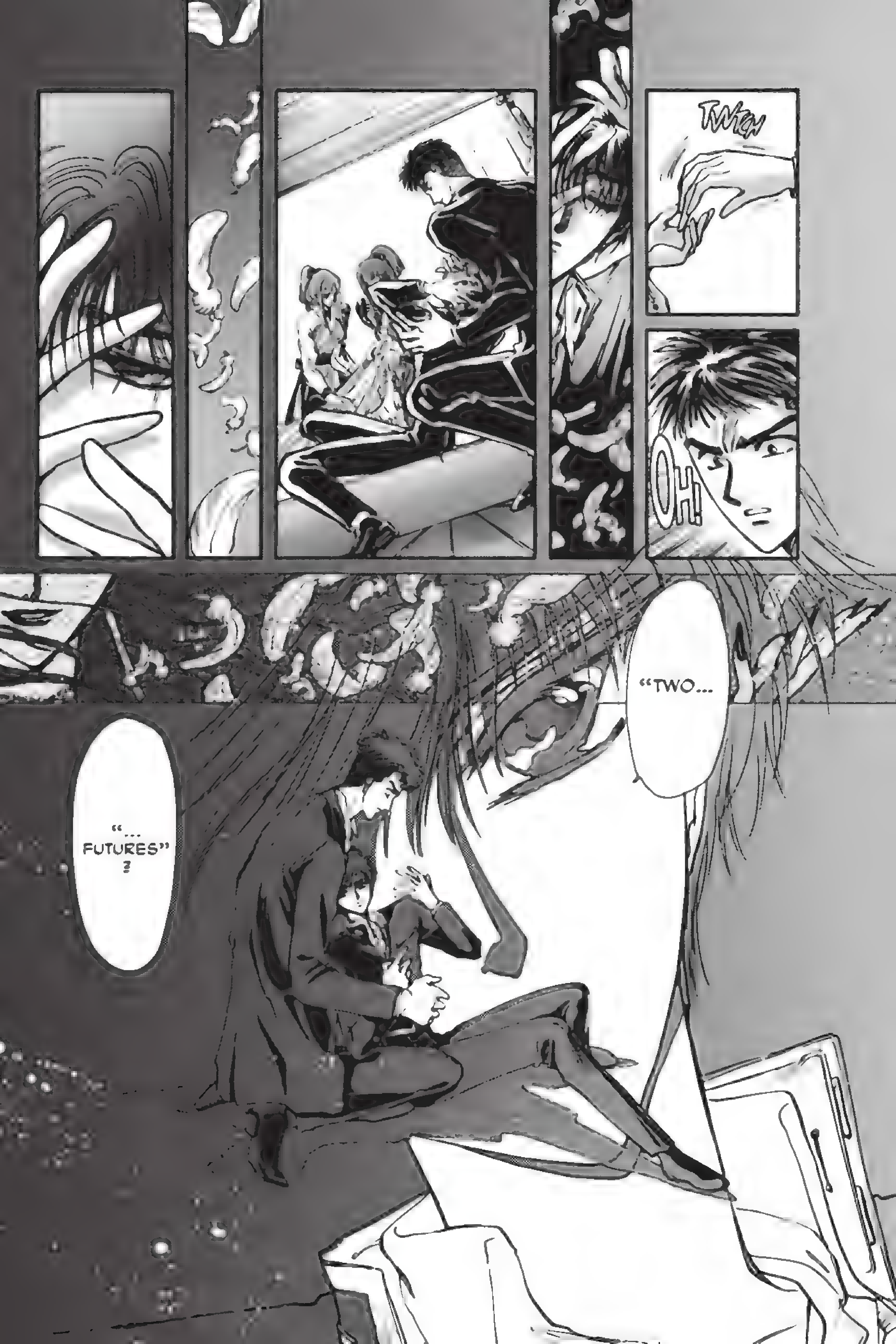

ANOTHER FUTURE?
ZASH
GLOW
THAT'S RIGHT...

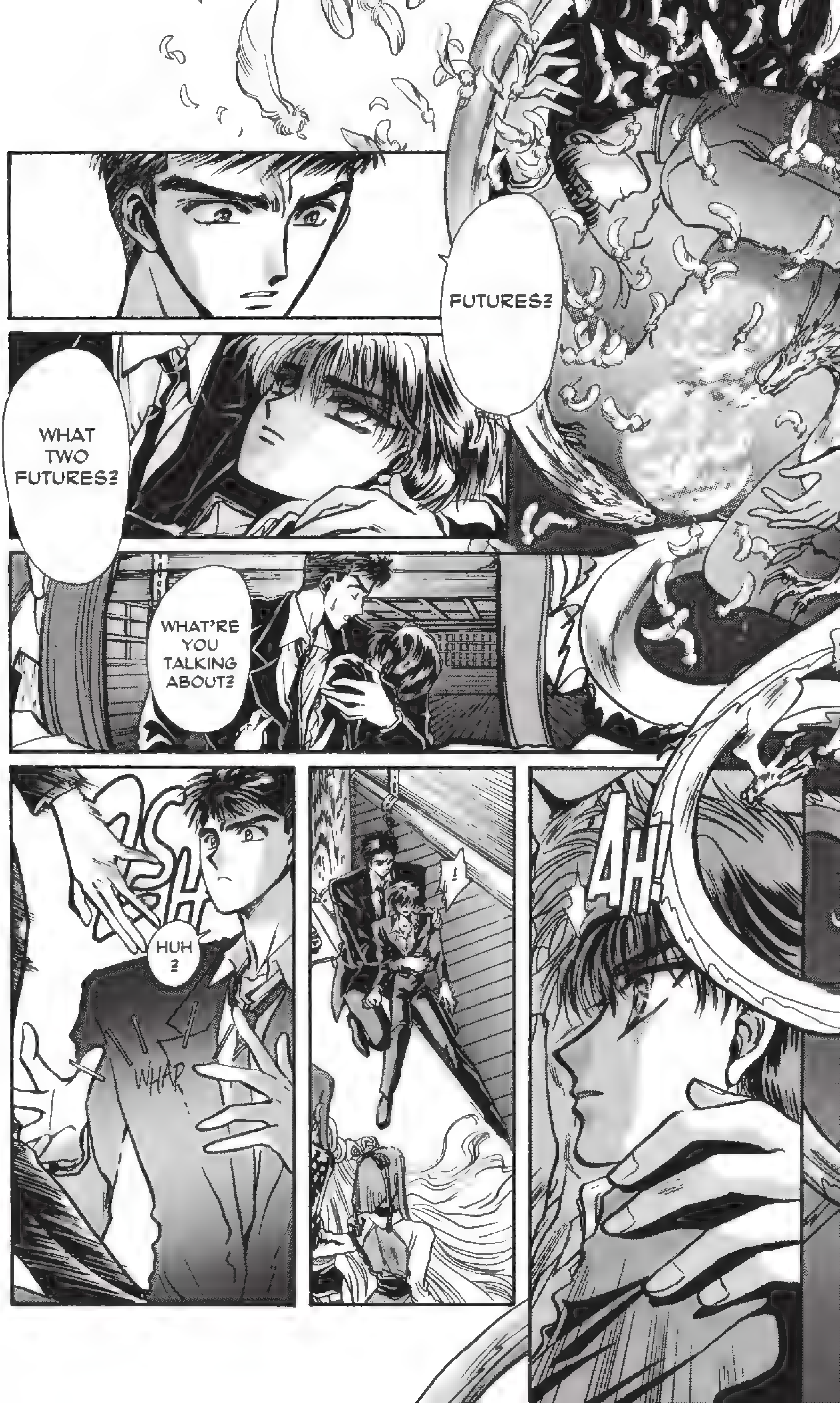

VWEEREE
THAM

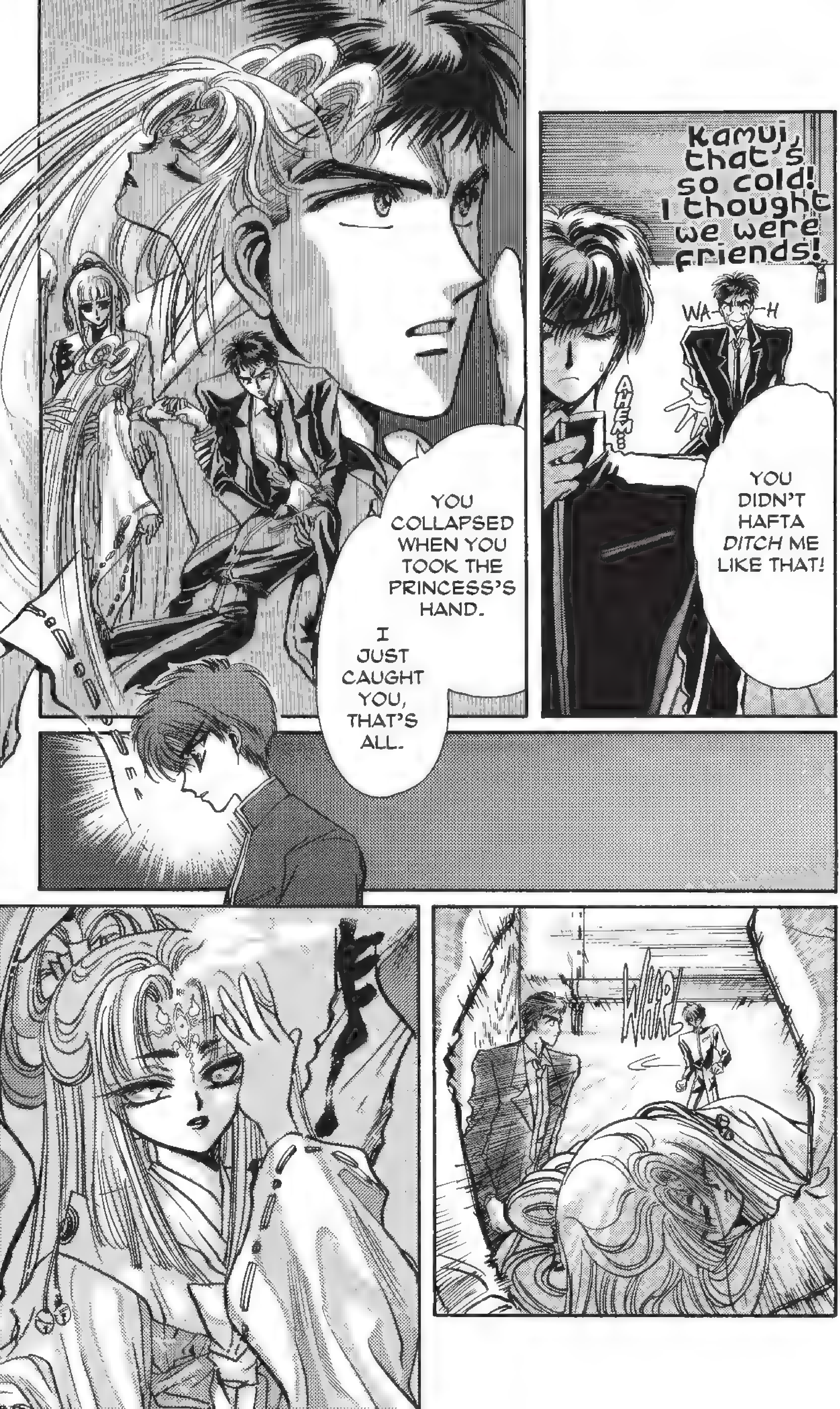

BWOOM
FLITTR...

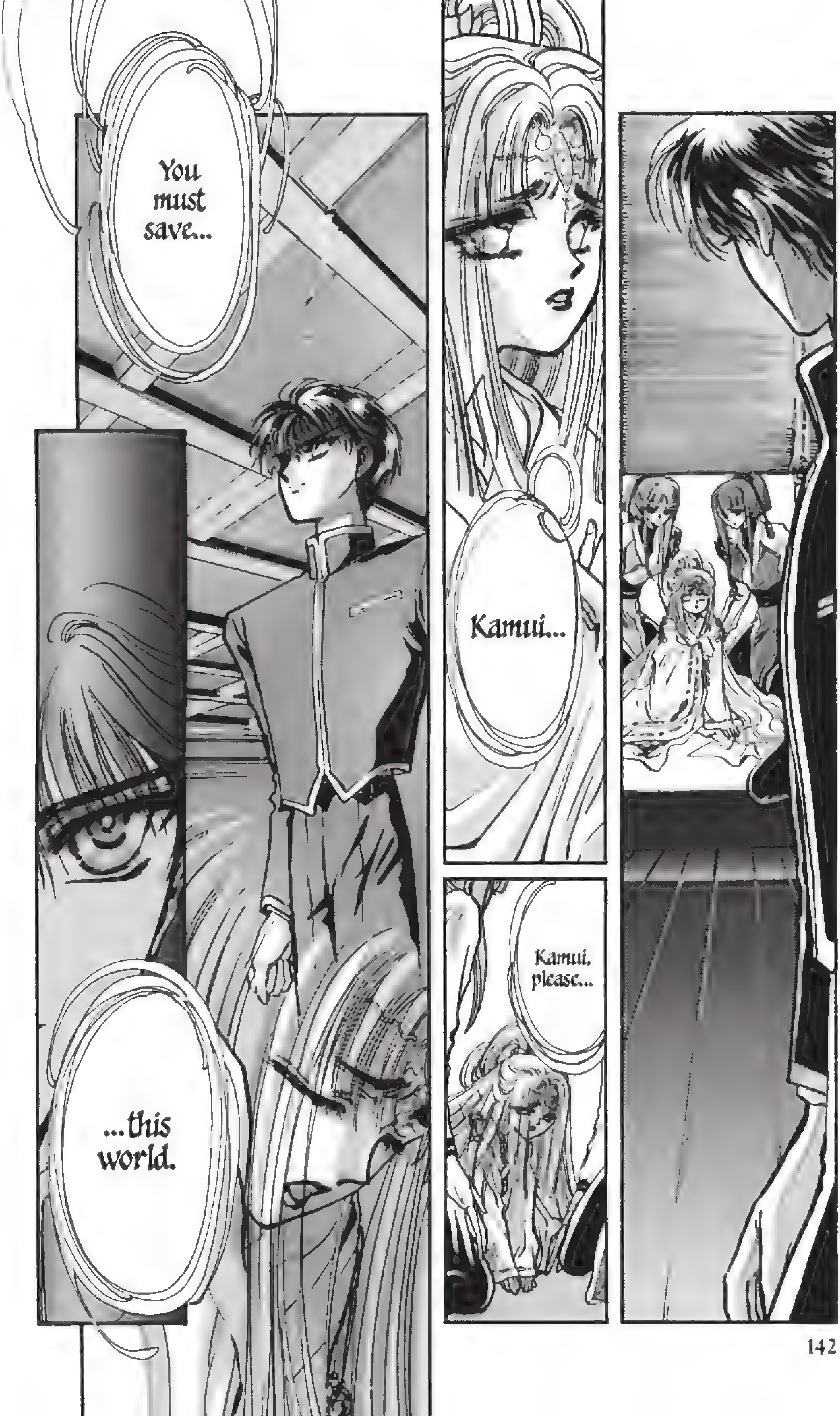

YOUR DESTINY ...
TWO FUTURES ...
TWO FUTURES ...?

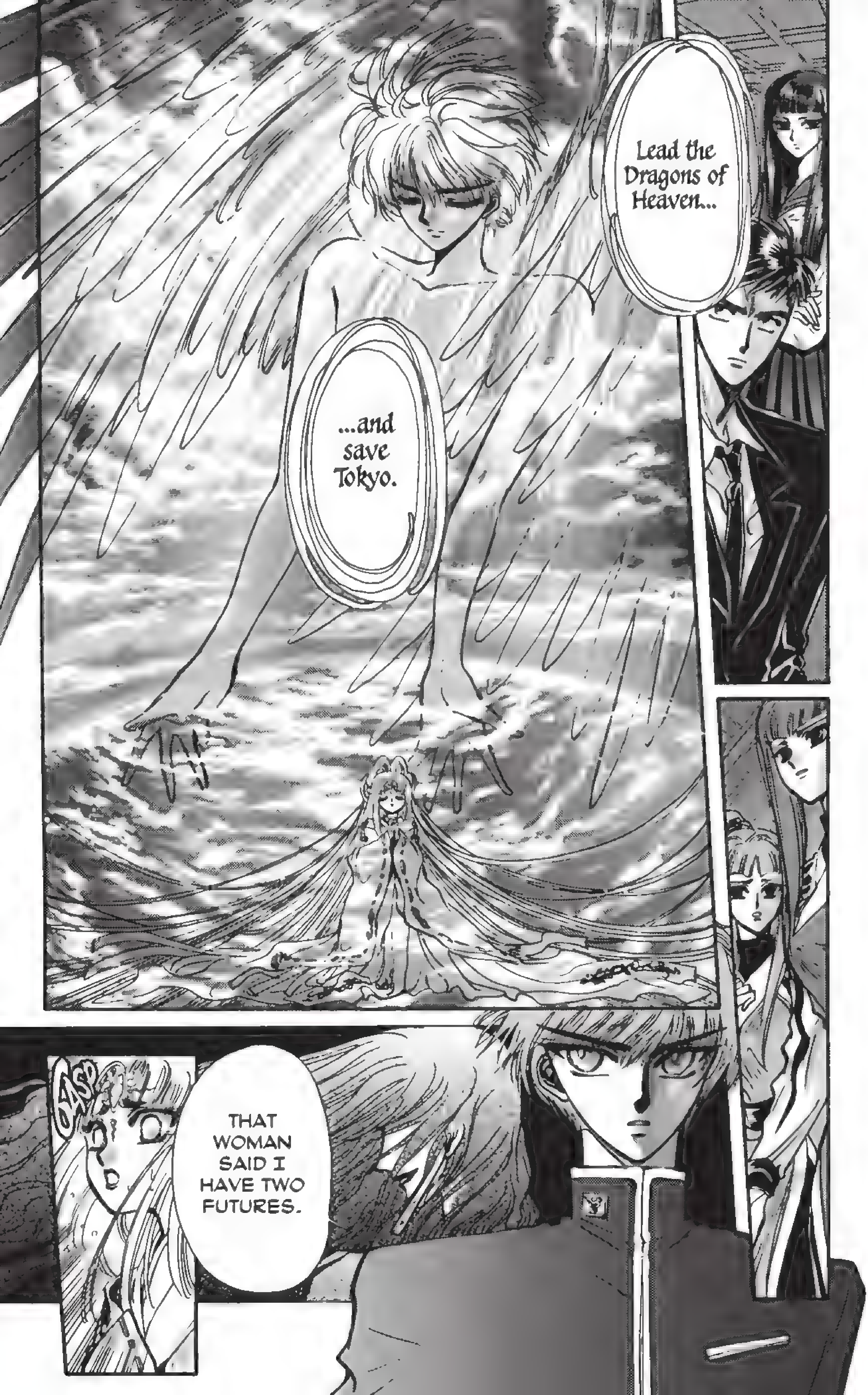


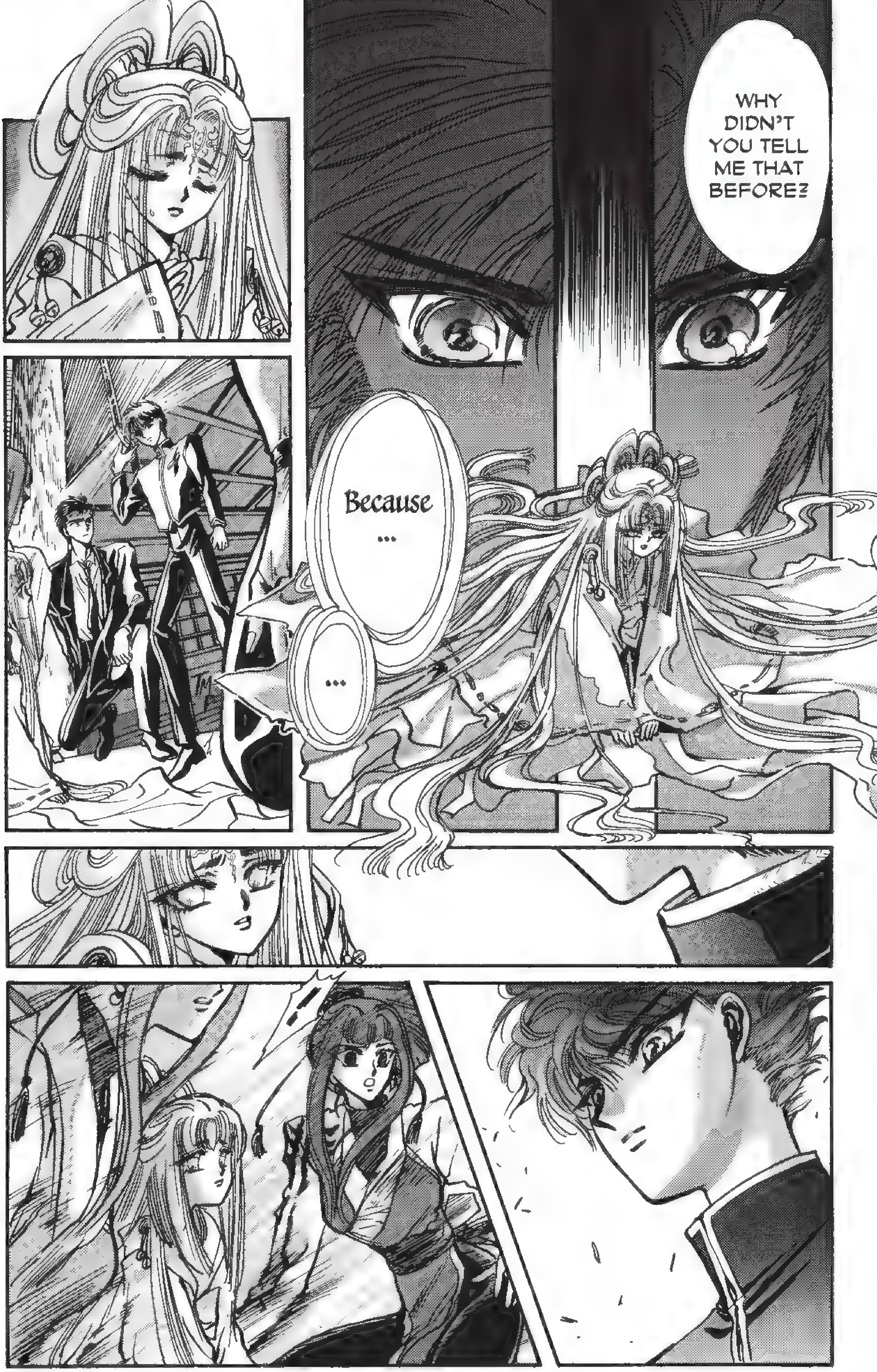

TWITCH
OH!
“TWO...
“... FUTURES” ?

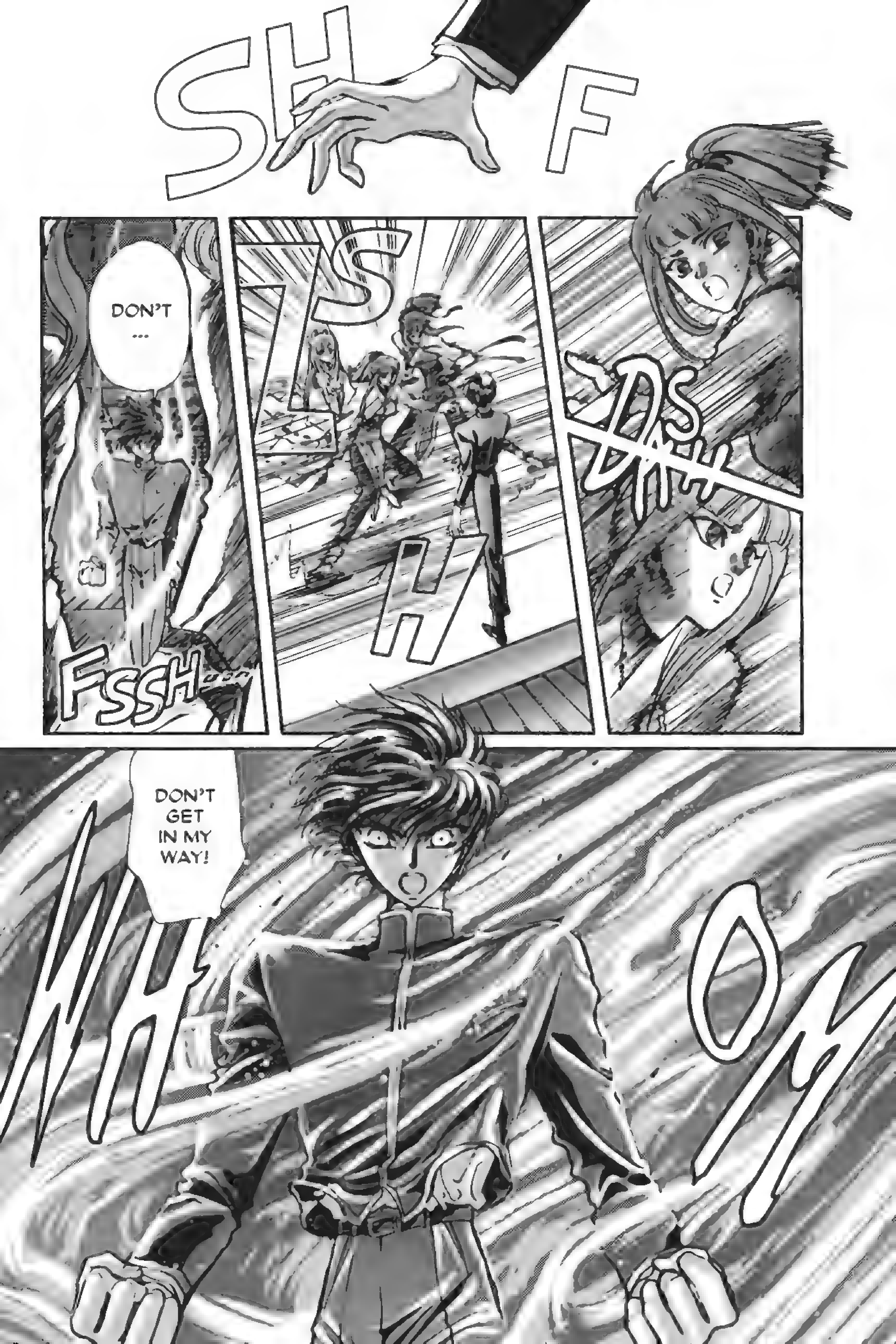

FUTURES?
WHAT TWO FUTURES?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
AH!
!
HUH?
WHAP

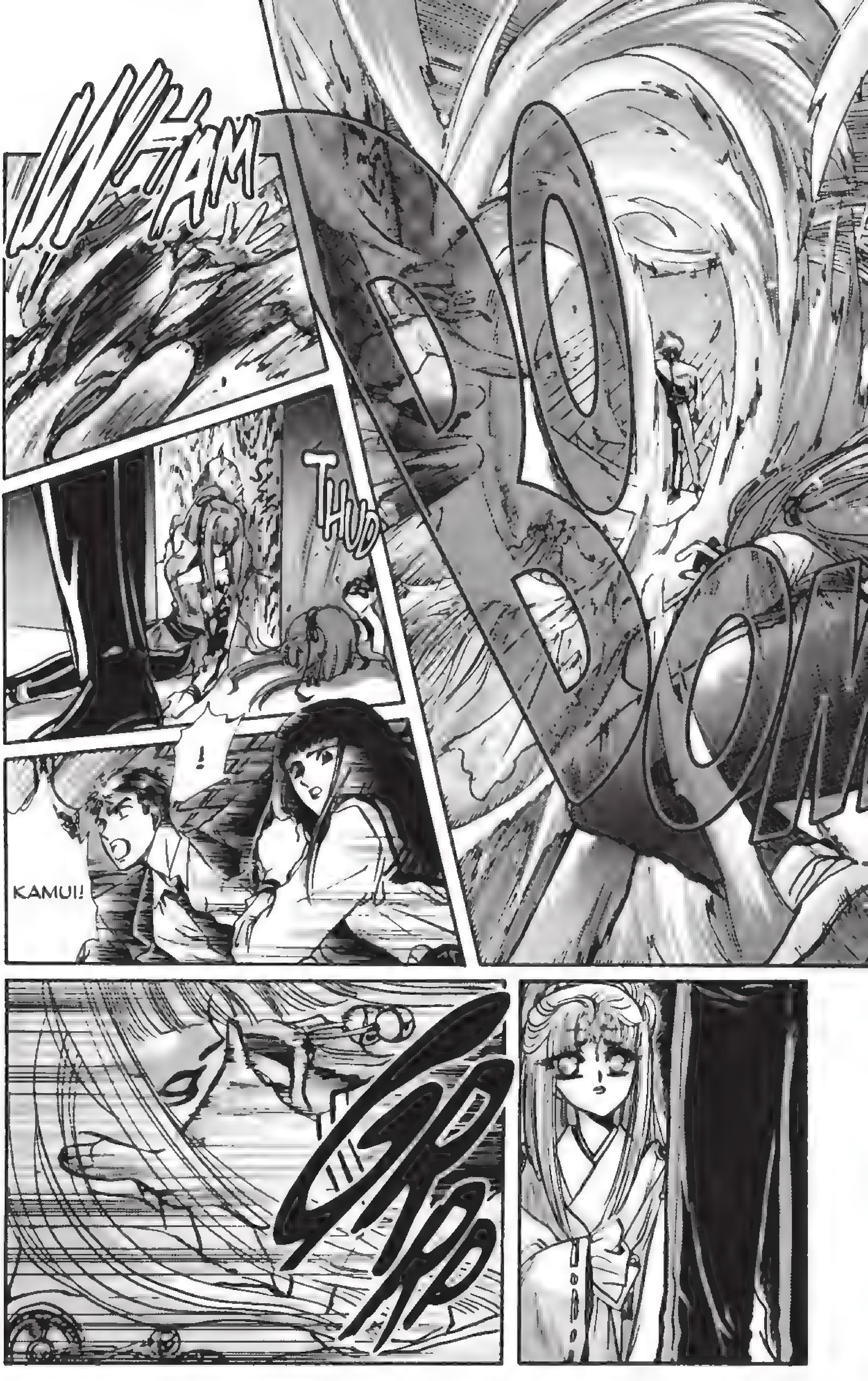

Kamui, that's so cold! I thought we were friends!
WA—H
AHEM
YOU DIDN'T HAFTA *DITCH* ME LIKE THAT!
YOU COLLAPSED WHEN YOU TOOK THE PRINCESS'S HAND.
I JUST CAUGHT YOU, THAT'S ALL.
WHIRL

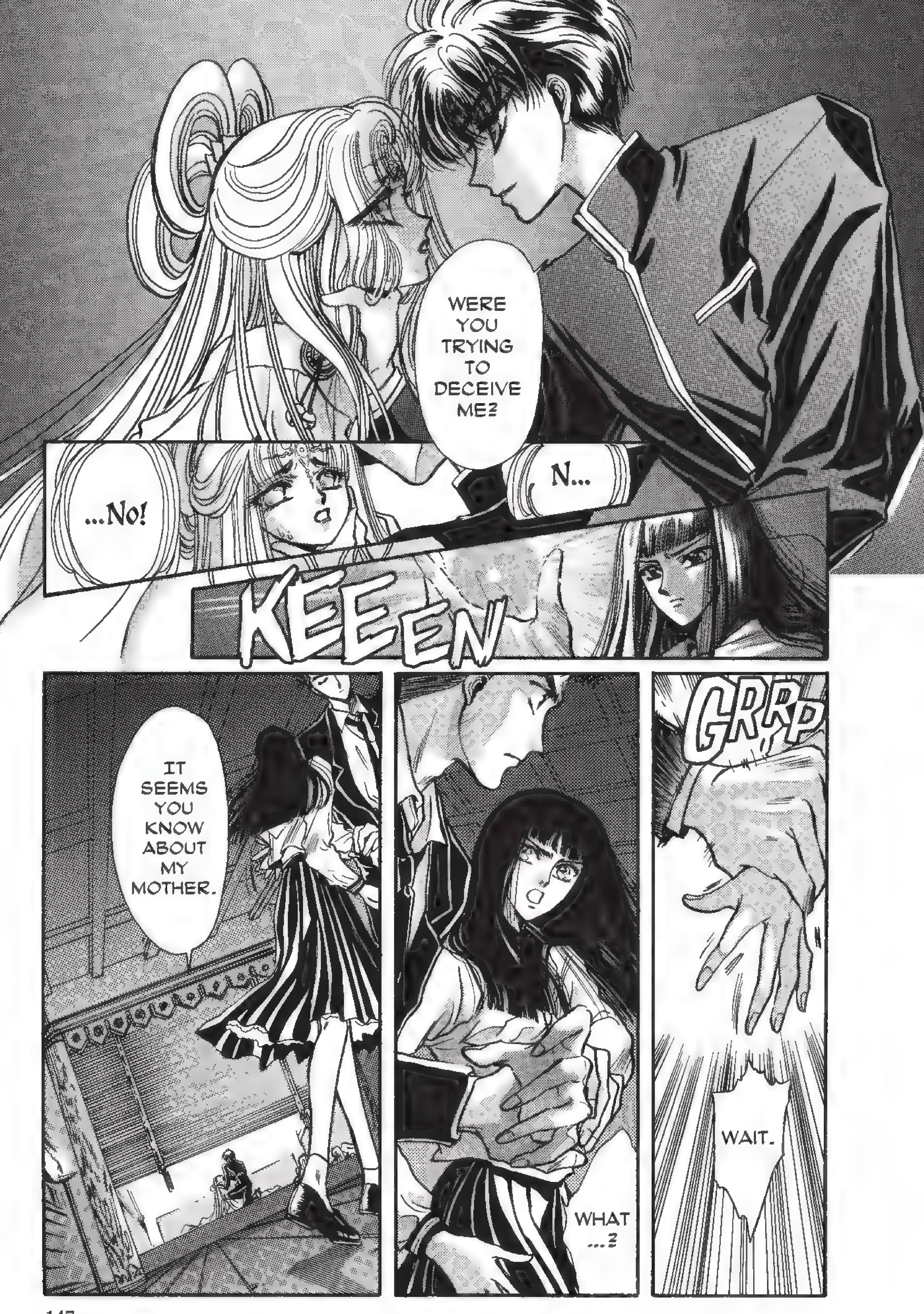

Kamui...
Kamui, please...
You must save...
...this world.

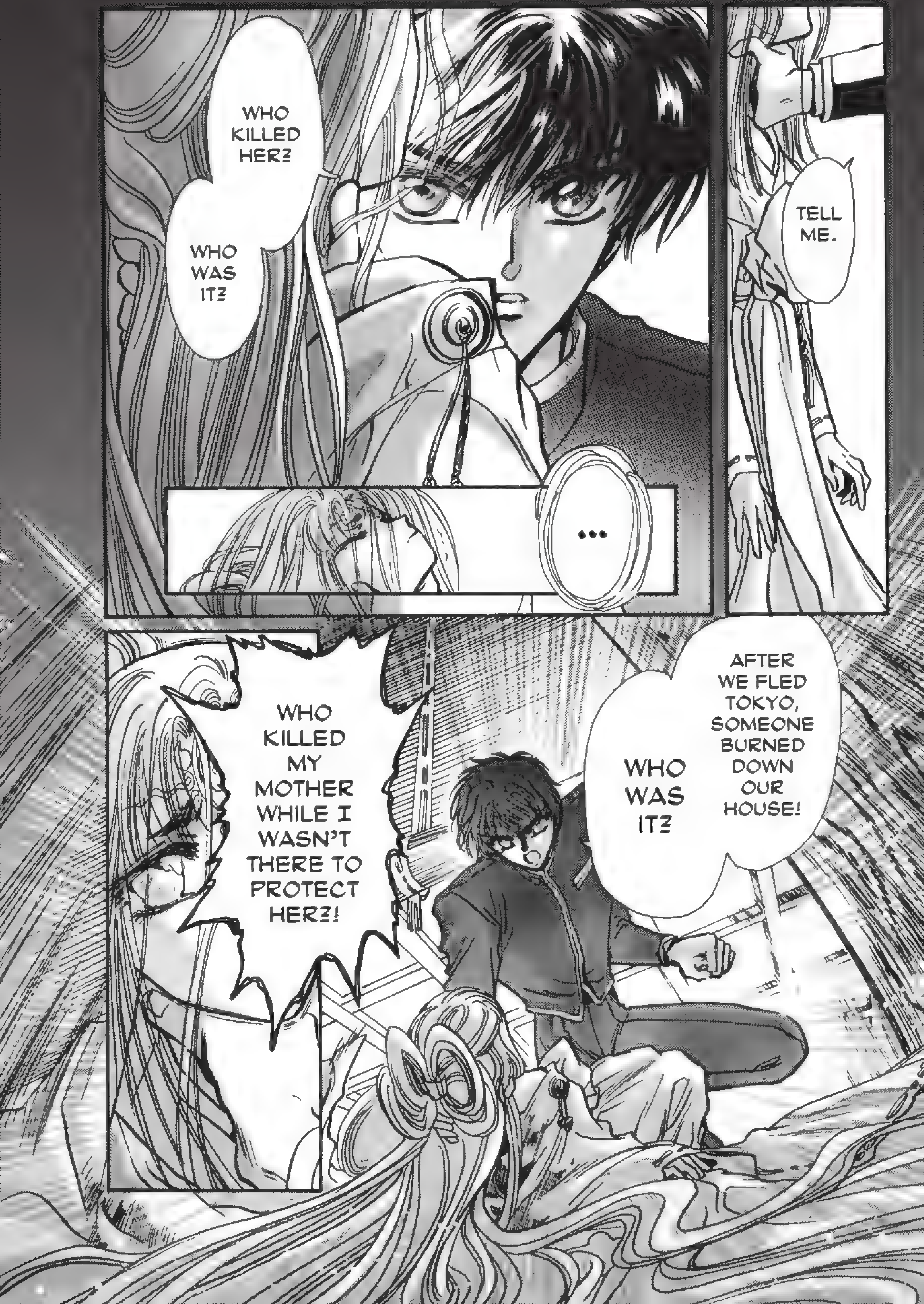

Lead the Dragons of Heaven...
...and save Tokyo.
THAT WOMAN SAID I HAVE TWO FUTURES.
GASP

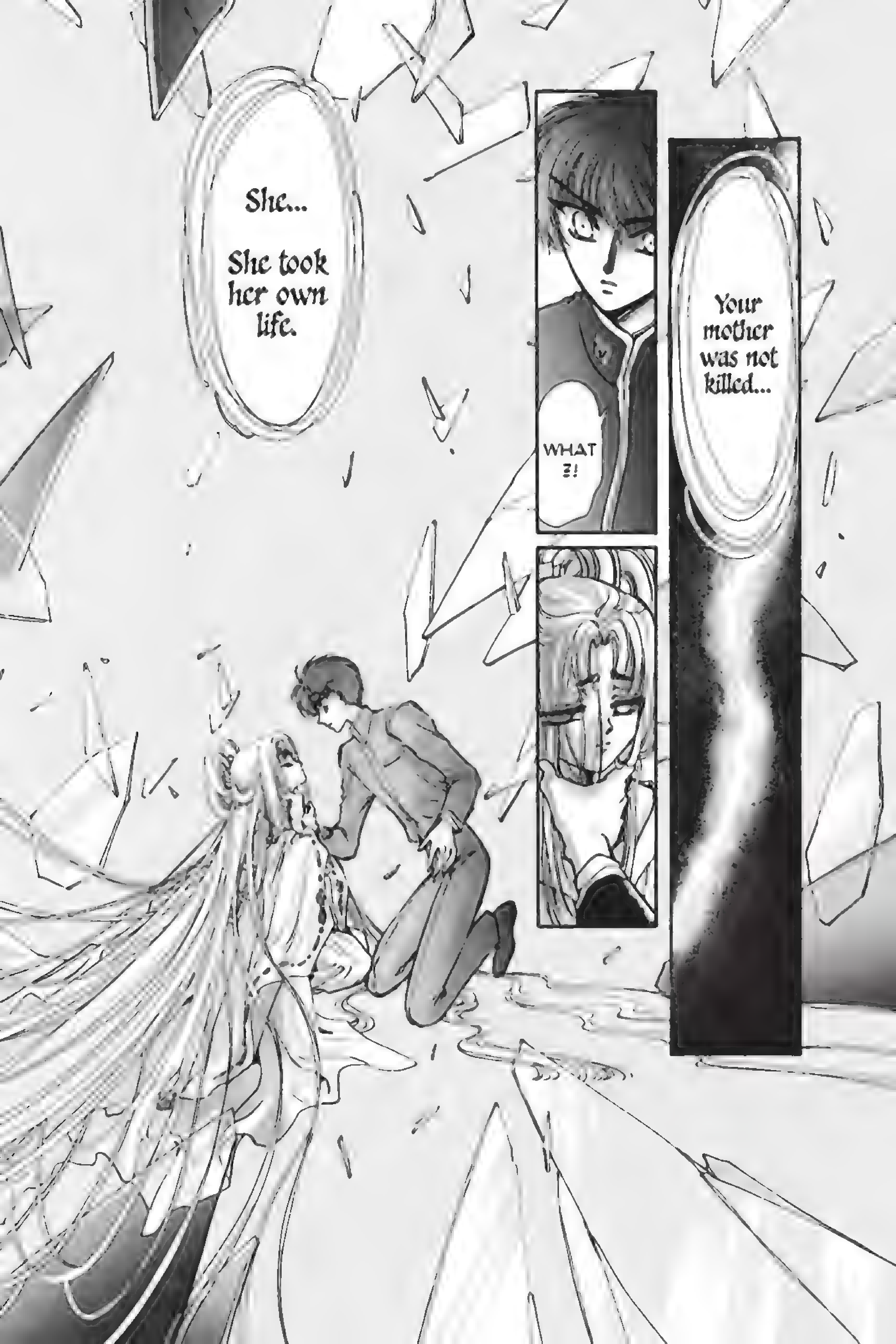

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT BEFORE?
Because ...
...

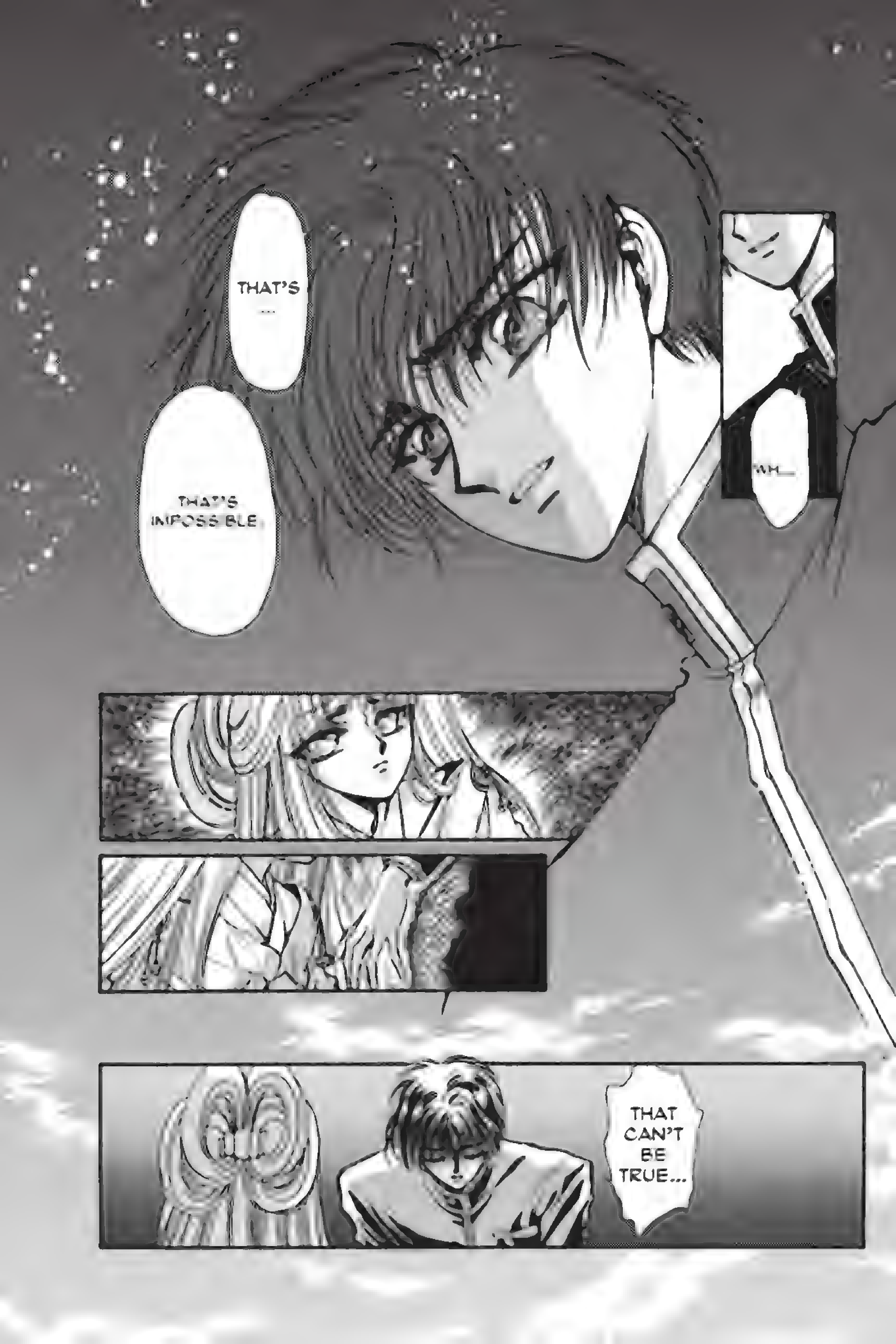

SHF
DSH
ZSH
DON'T ...
FSSH
DON'T GET IN MY WAY!
WHOM

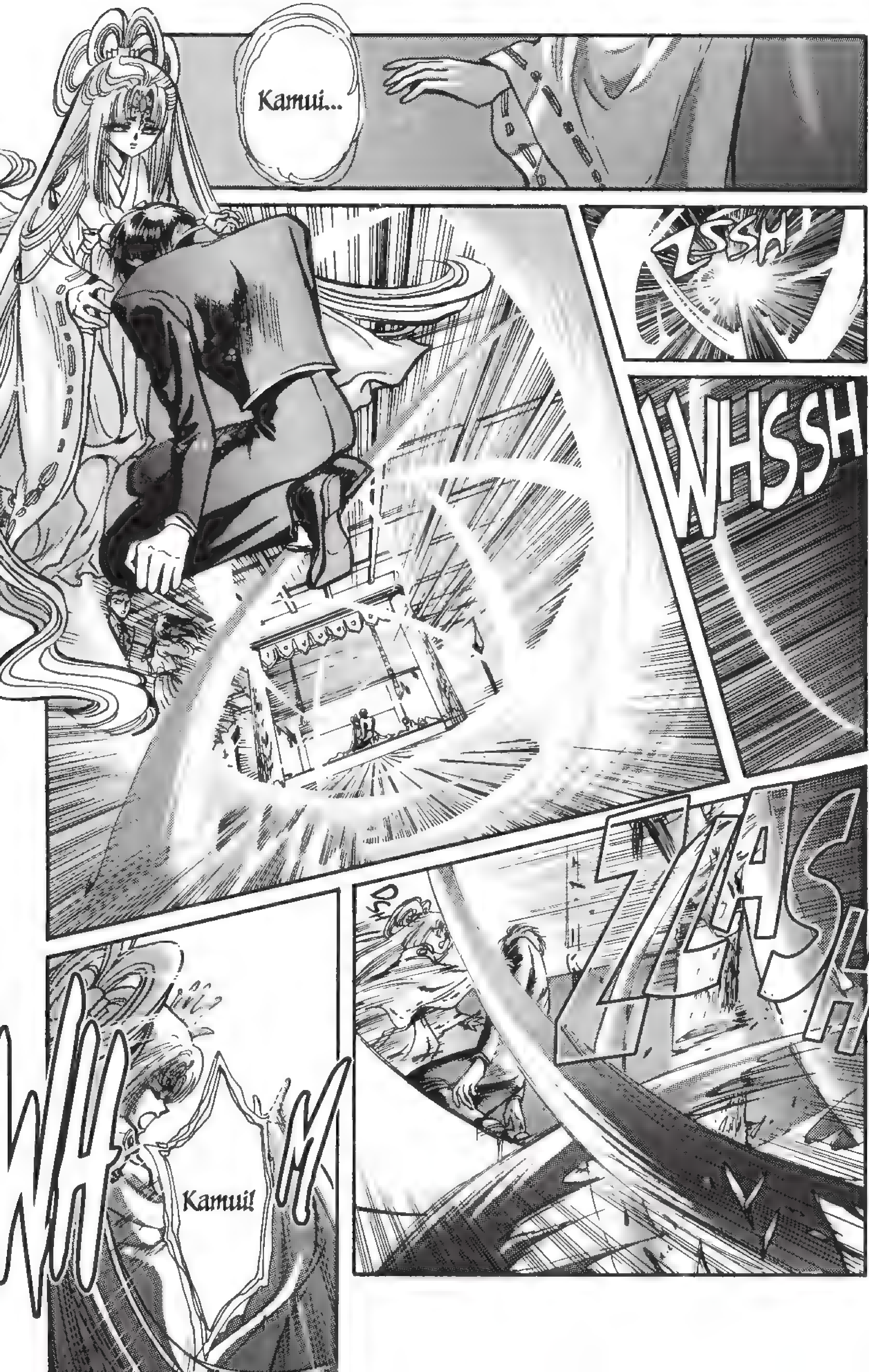

WHAM
DOOM
THUD
!
KAMUI!
SRRP

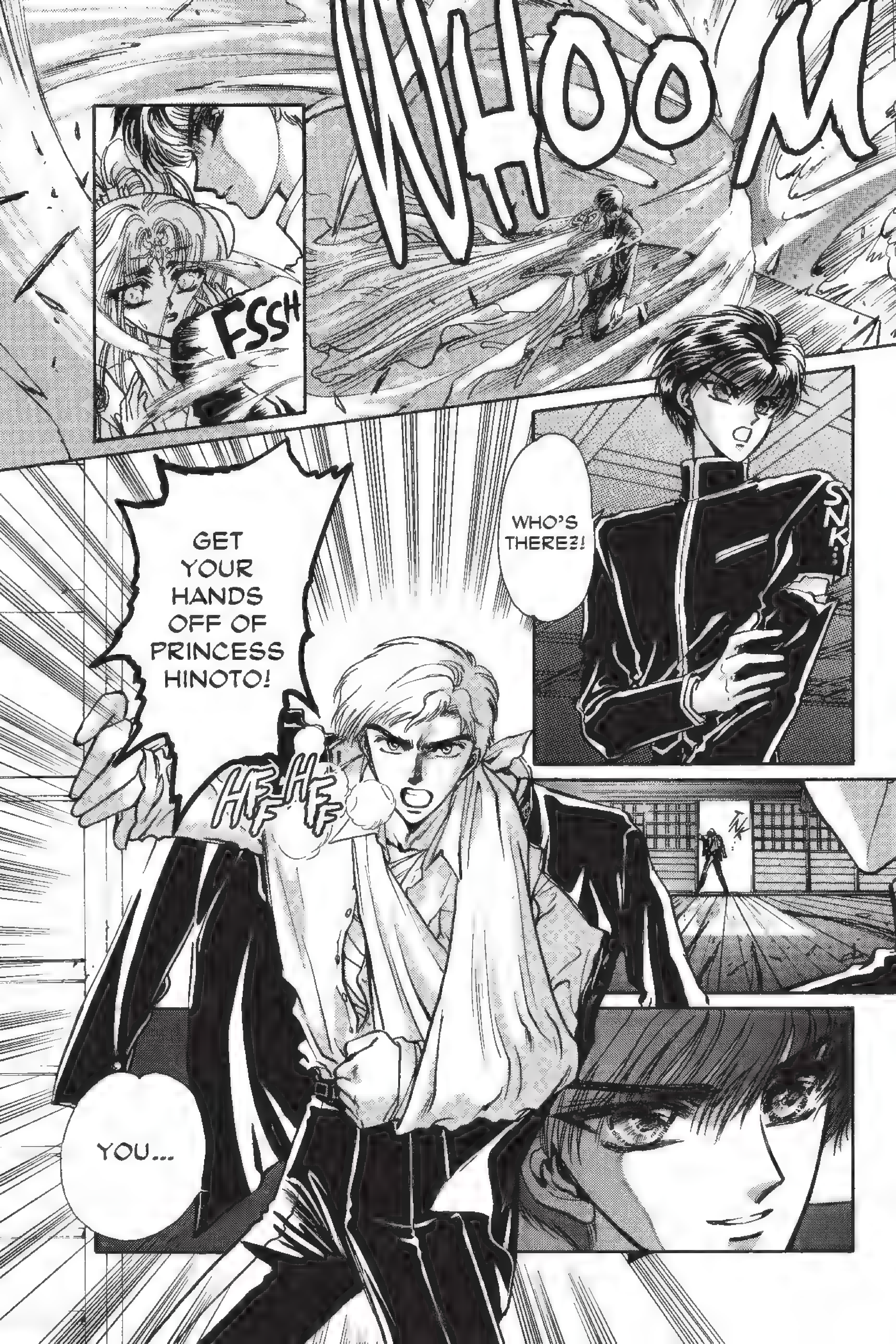

WERE YOU TRYING TO DECEIVE ME?
N...
...No!
KEEEN
GRRP
WAIT.
WHAT ...?
IT SEEMS YOU KNOW ABOUT MY MOTHER.

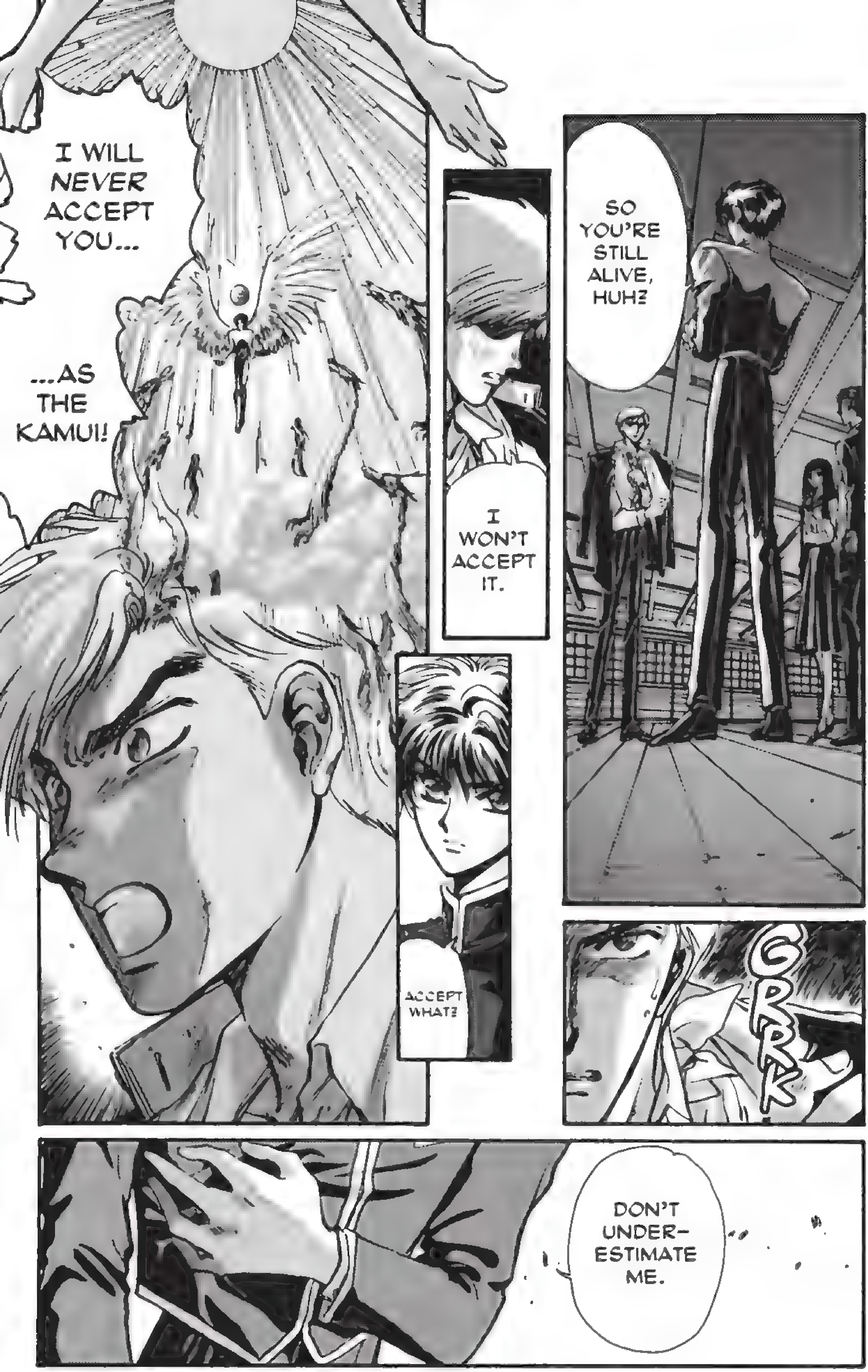

TELL ME.
WHO KILLED HER?
WHO WAS IT?
...
AFTER WE FLED TOKYO, SOMEONE BURNED DOWN OUR HOUSE!
WHO WAS IT?
WHO KILLED MY MOTHER WHILE I WASN'T THERE TO PROTECT HER?!

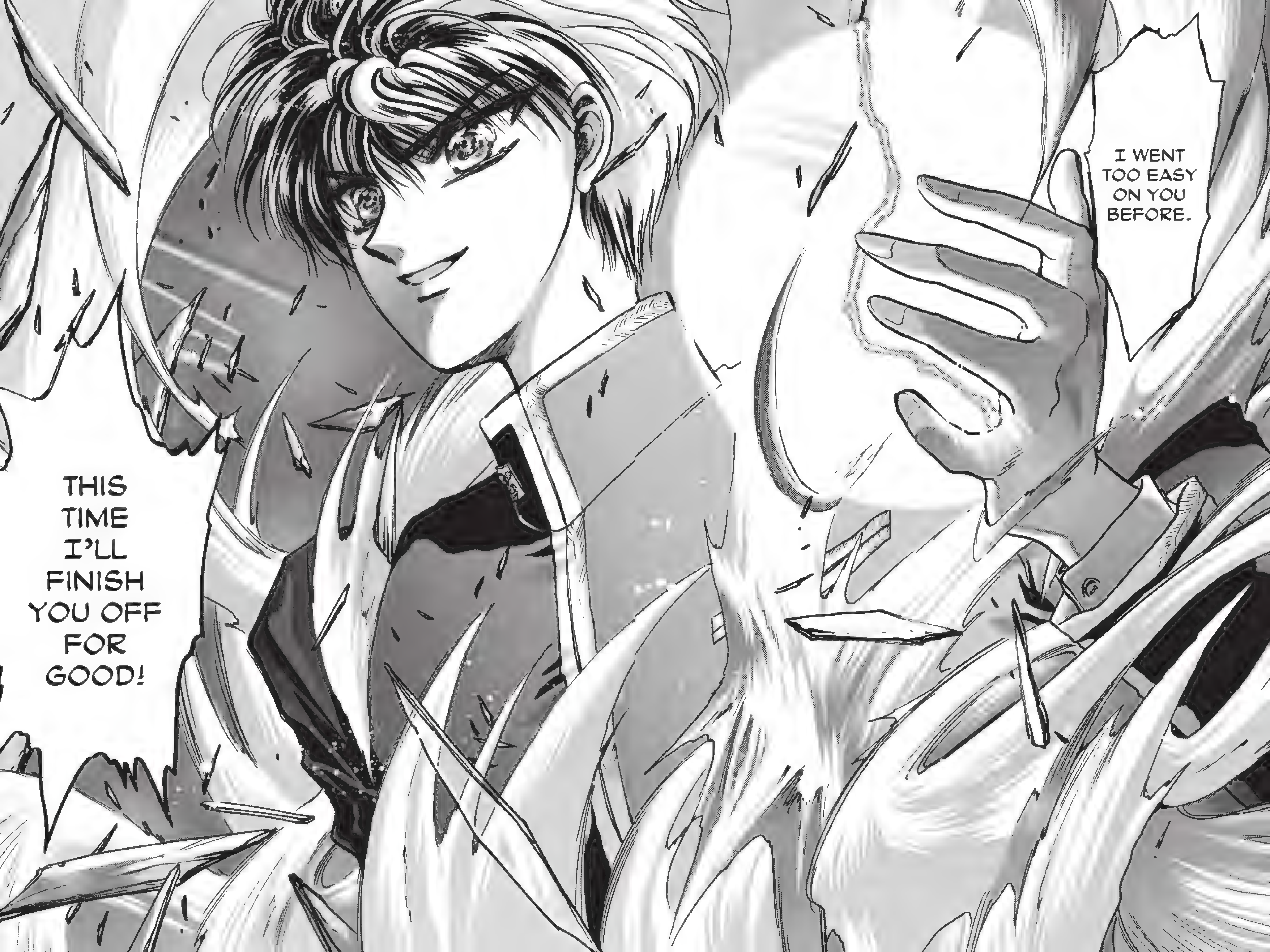

Your mother was not killed...
WHAT ?!
She...
She took her own life.

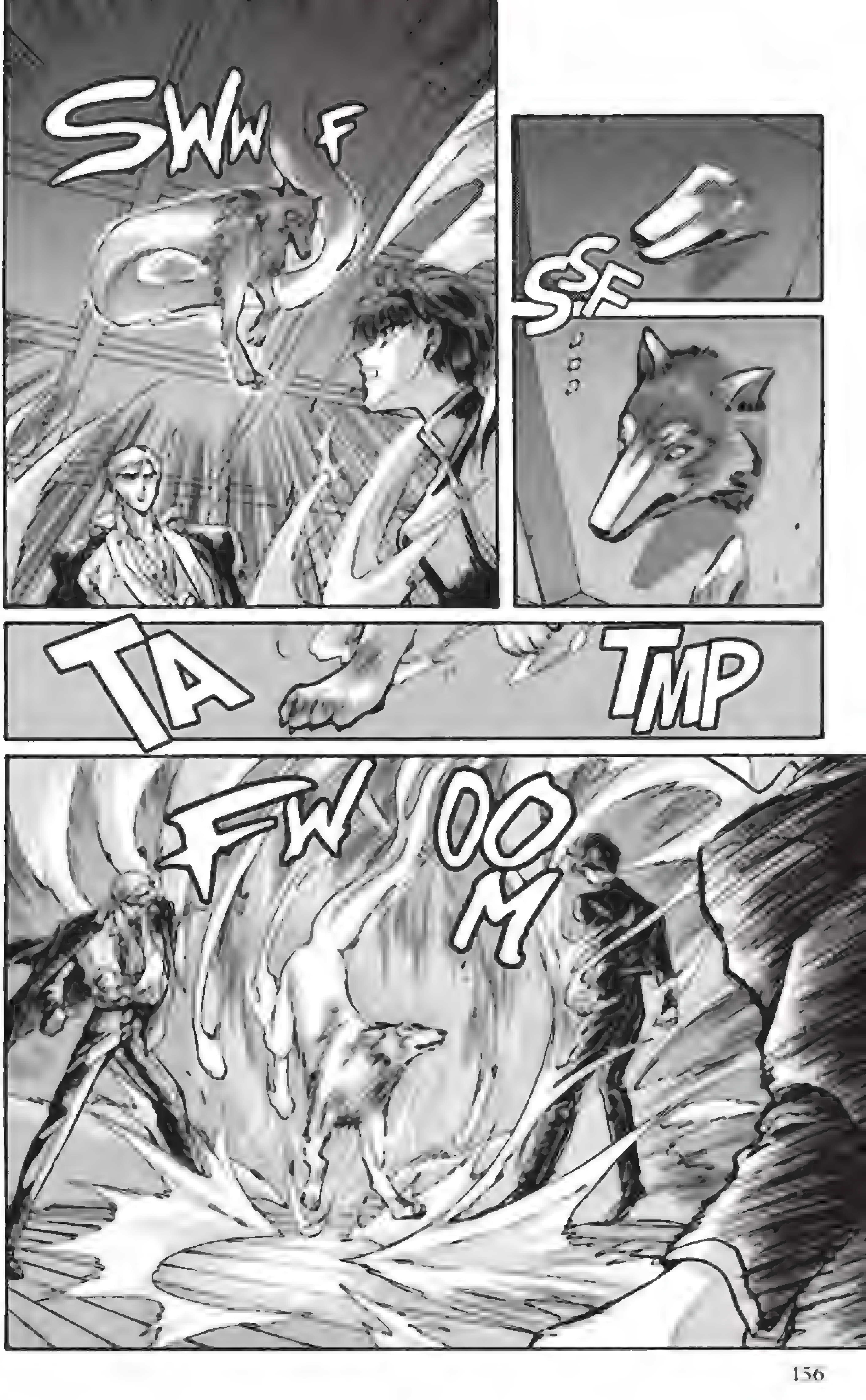

WH...
THAT'S ...
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE...

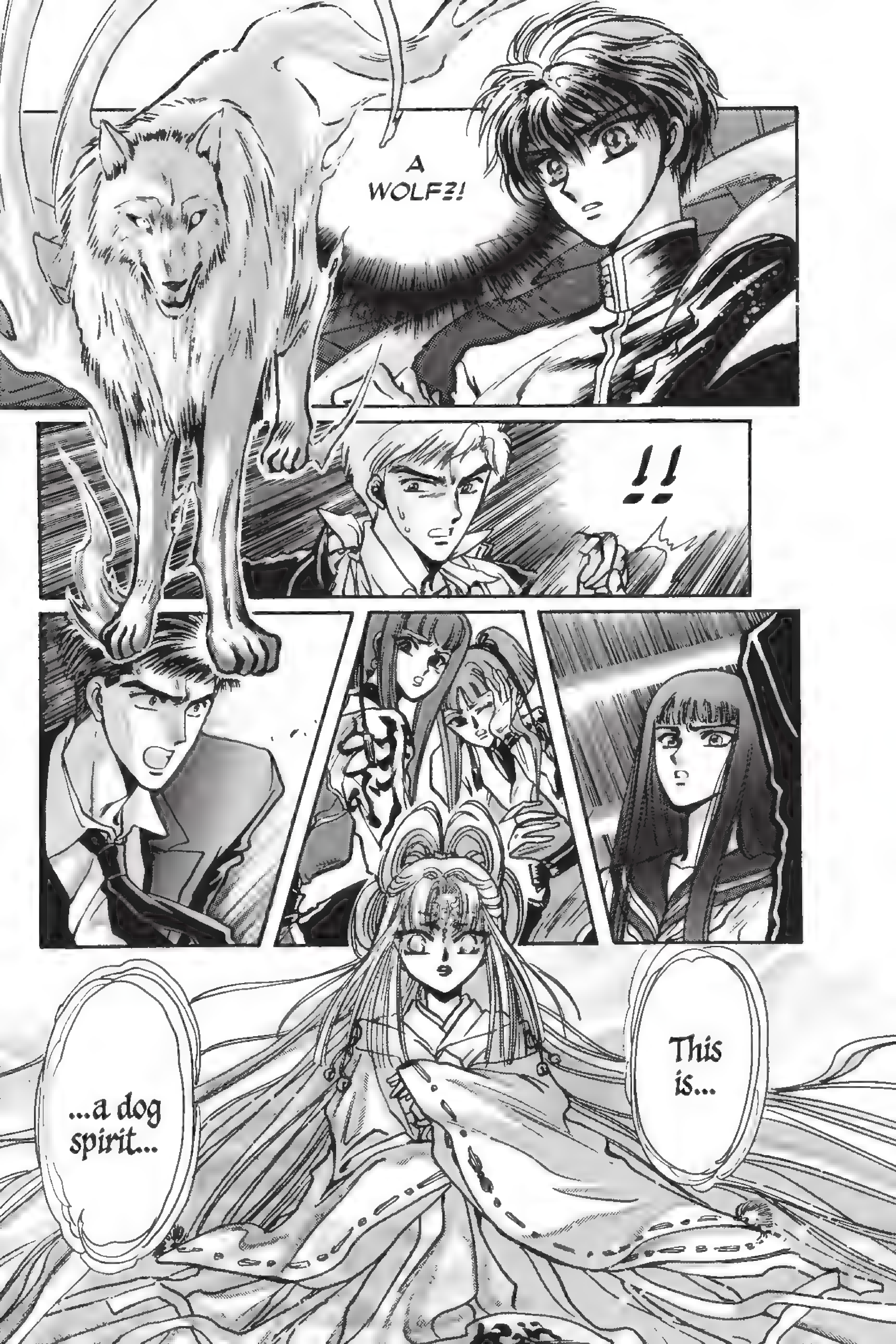

Kamui...
ZSSH!
WHSSH
ZLASH!
DGH
WH M
Kamui!

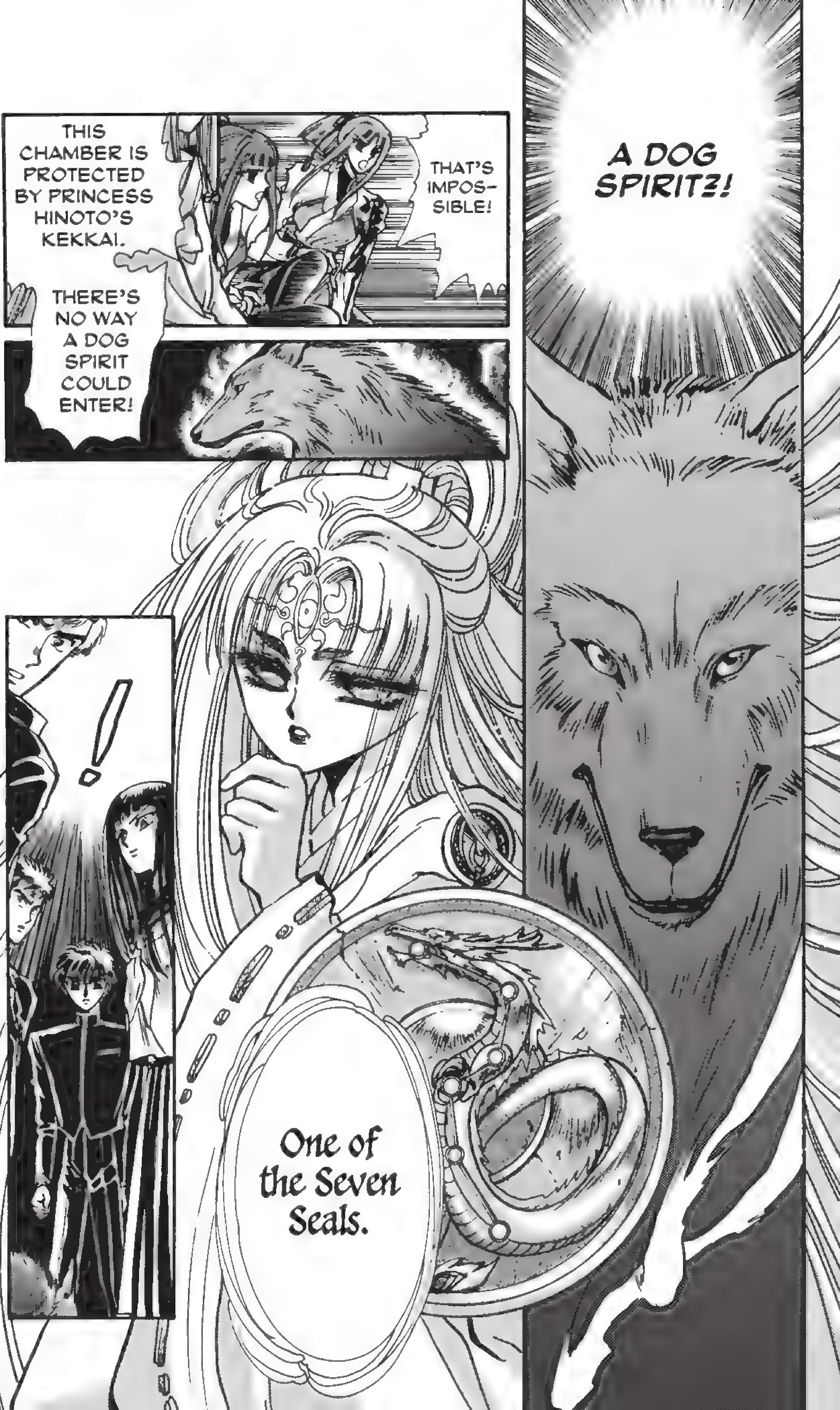

WHOOM
FSSH
WHO'S THERE?!
GET YOUR HANDS OFF OF PRINCESS HINOTO!
HFF HFF
YOU...

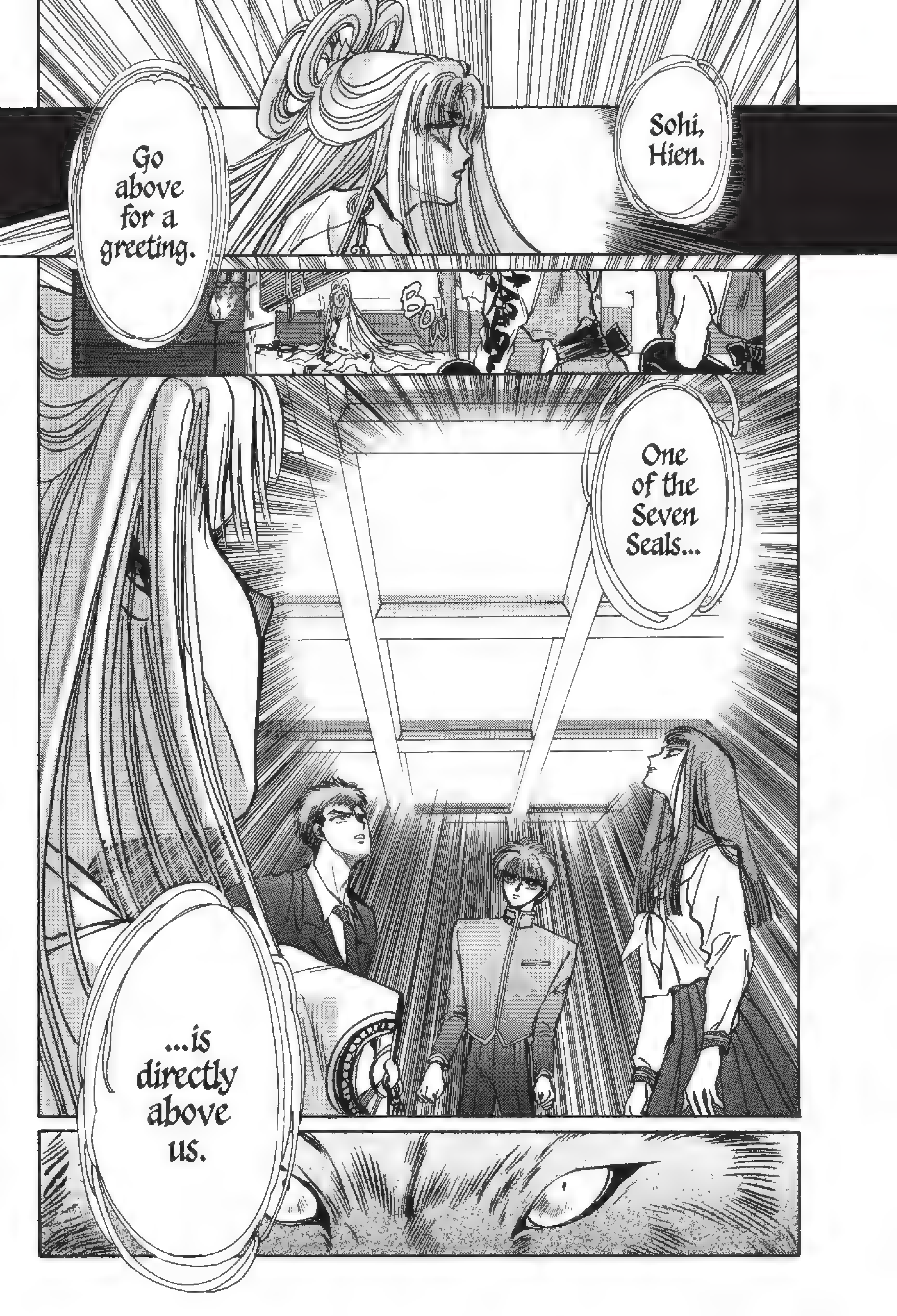

SO YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, HUH?
I WON'T ACCEPT IT.
ACCEPT WHAT?
I WILL *NEVER* ACCEPT YOU...
...AS THE KAMUI!
GRRK
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME.

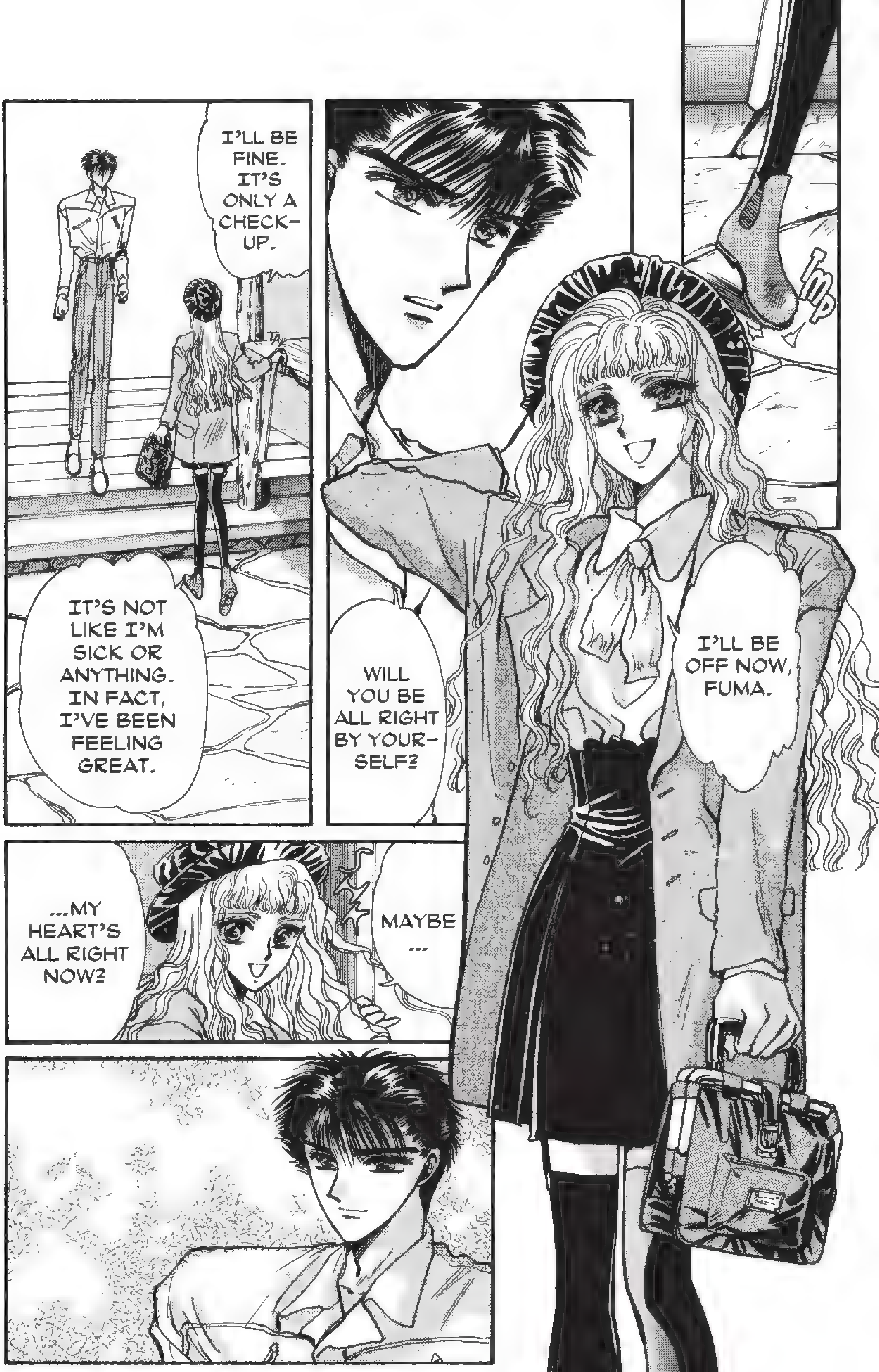

I WENT TOO EASY ON YOU BEFORE.
THIS TIME I'LL FINISH YOU OFF FOR GOOD!

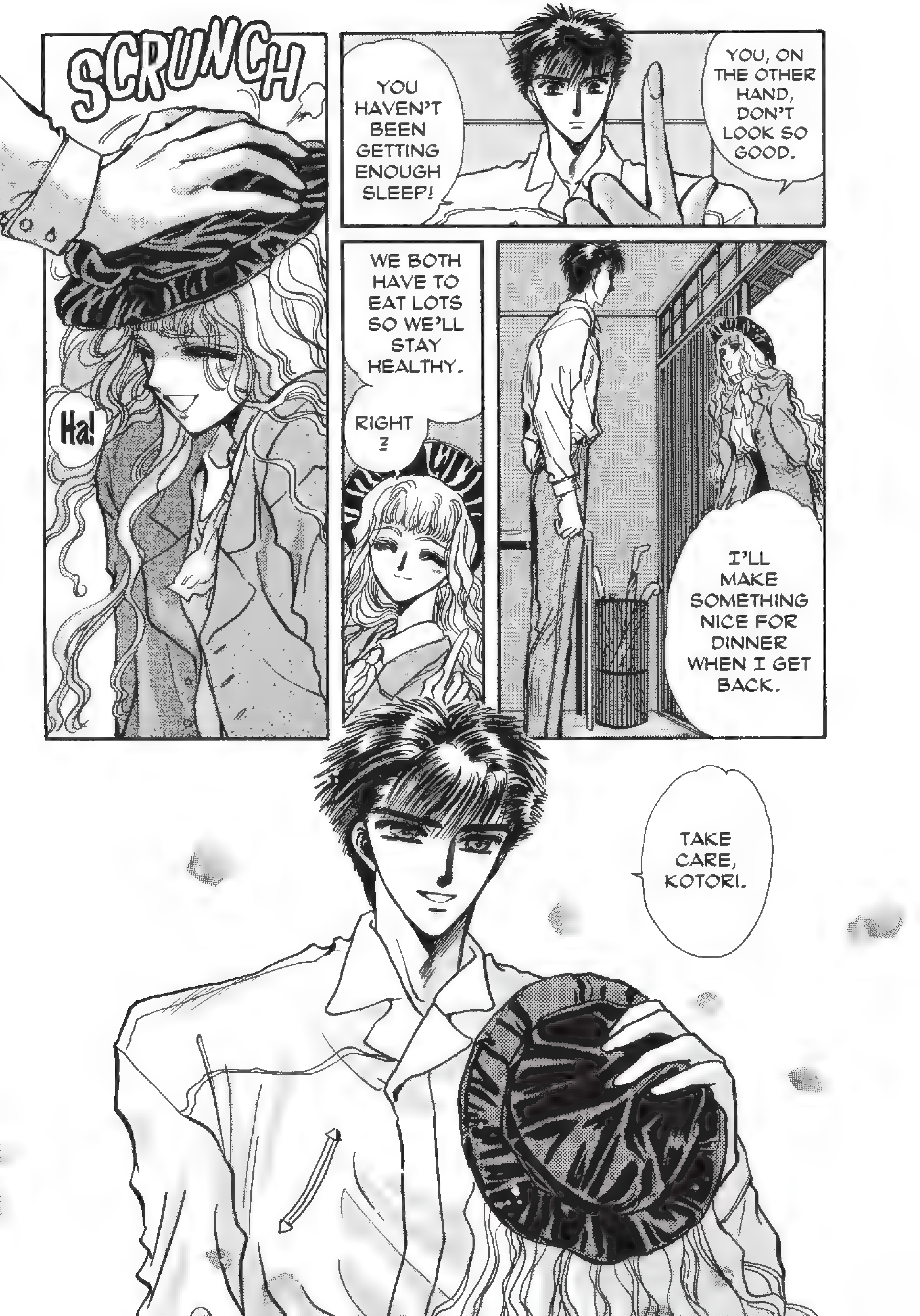

SWWF
SSF
...
TA TMP
FWOOM

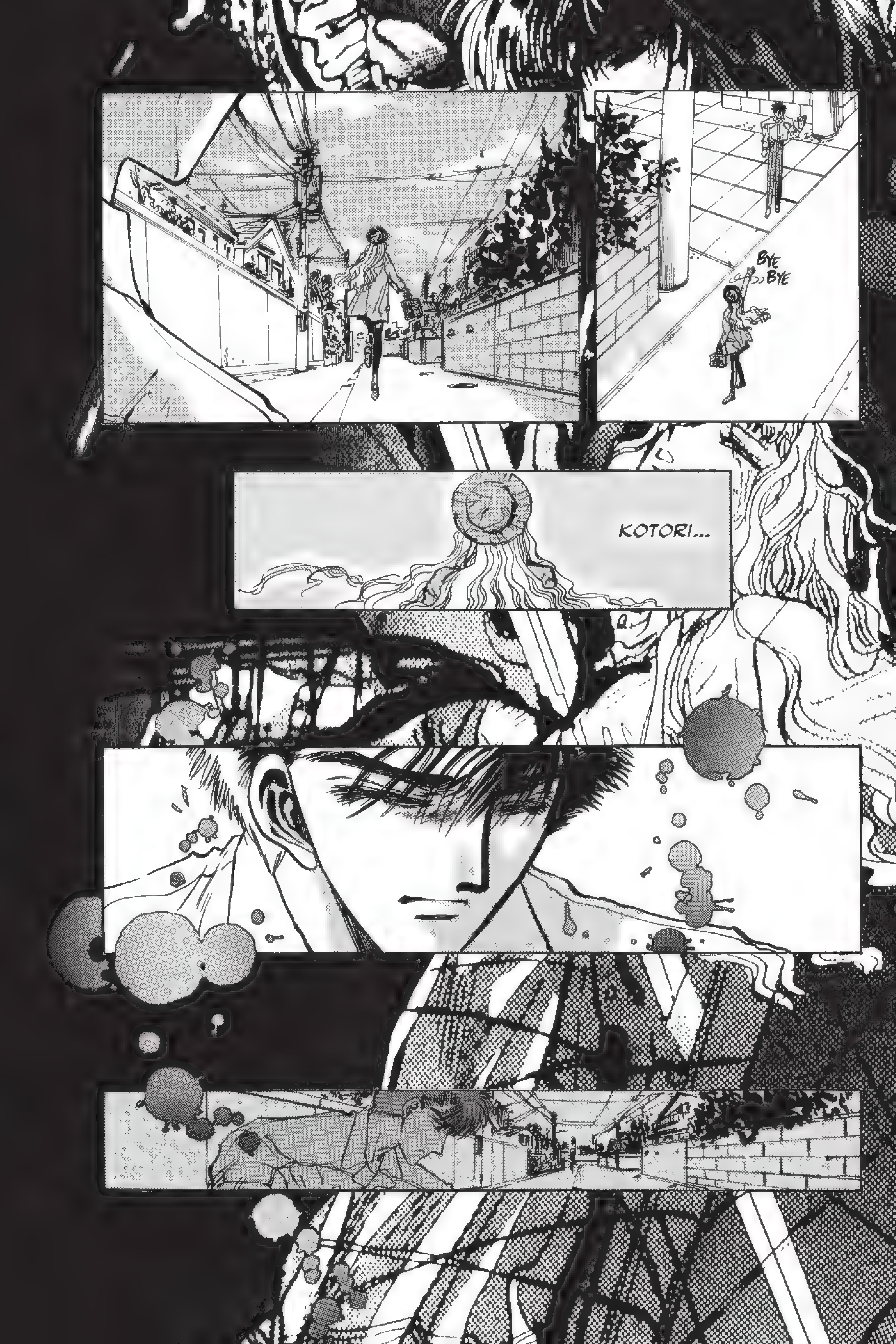

A WOLF?!
!!
This is...
...a dog spirit...

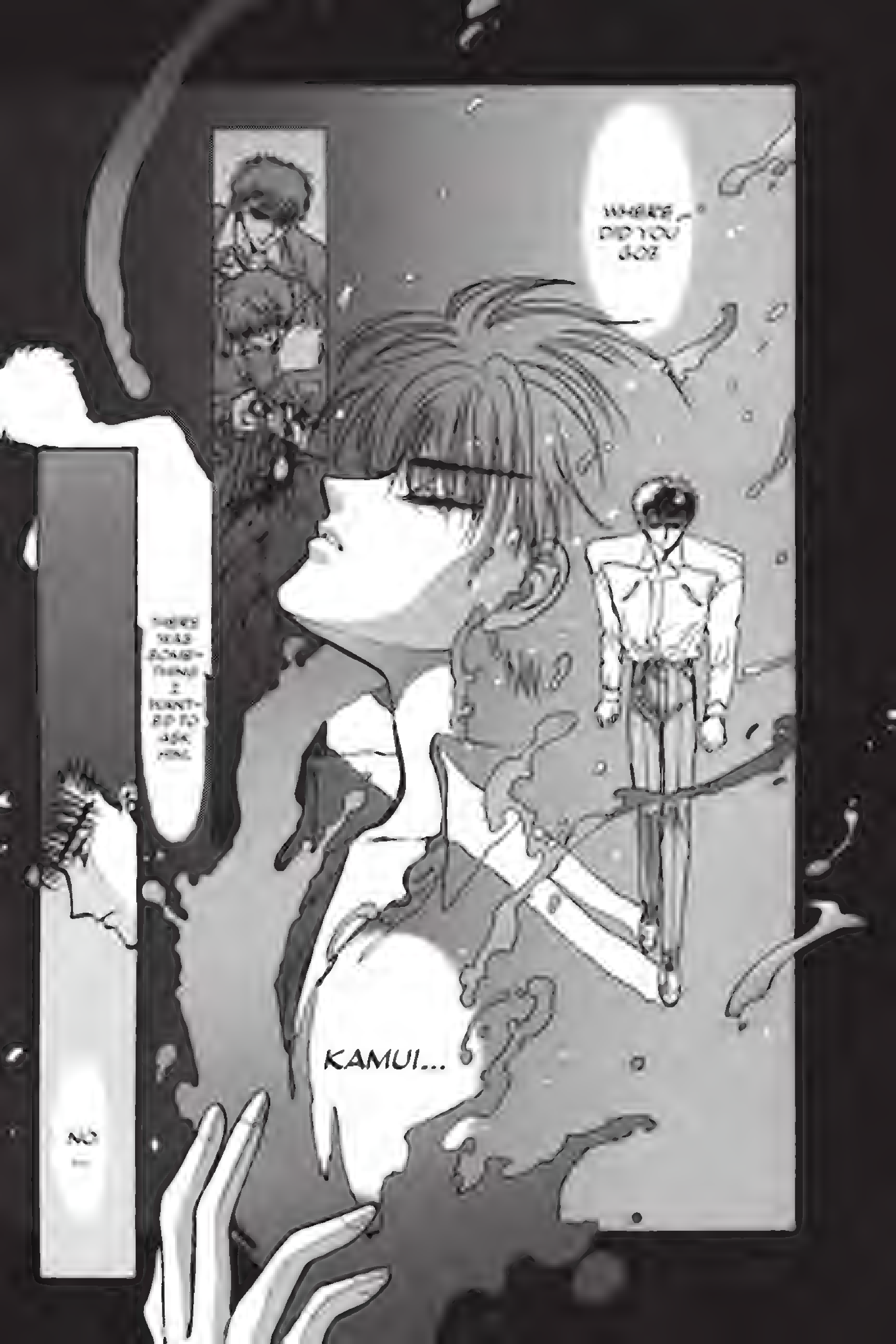

A DOG SPIRIT?!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
THIS CHAMBER IS PROTECTED BY PRINCESS HINOTO'S KEKKAI.
THERE'S NO WAY A DOG SPIRIT COULD ENTER!
!
One of the Seven Seals.

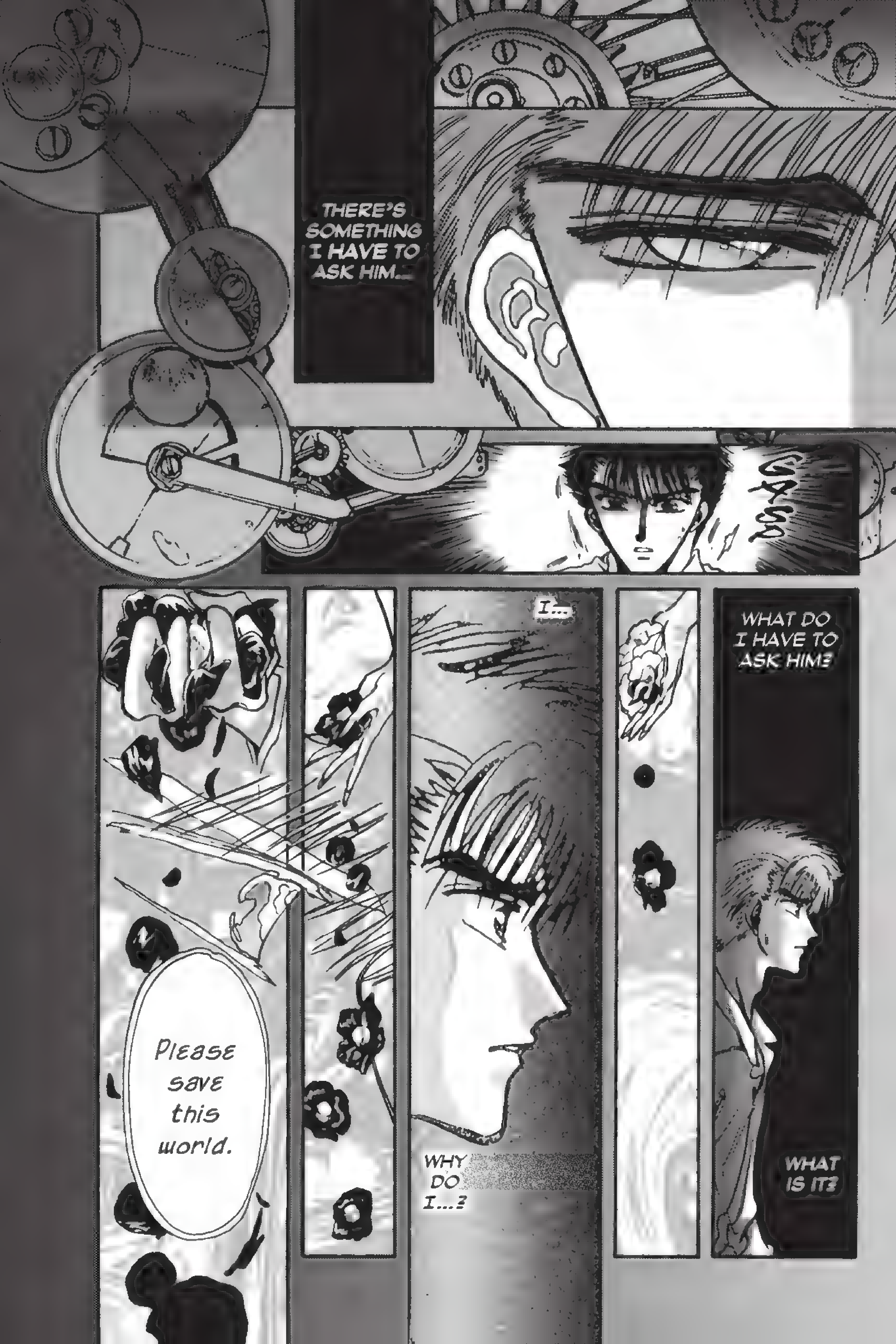

Sohi, Hien.
Go above for a greeting.
BOW
One of the Seven Seals...
...is directly above us.

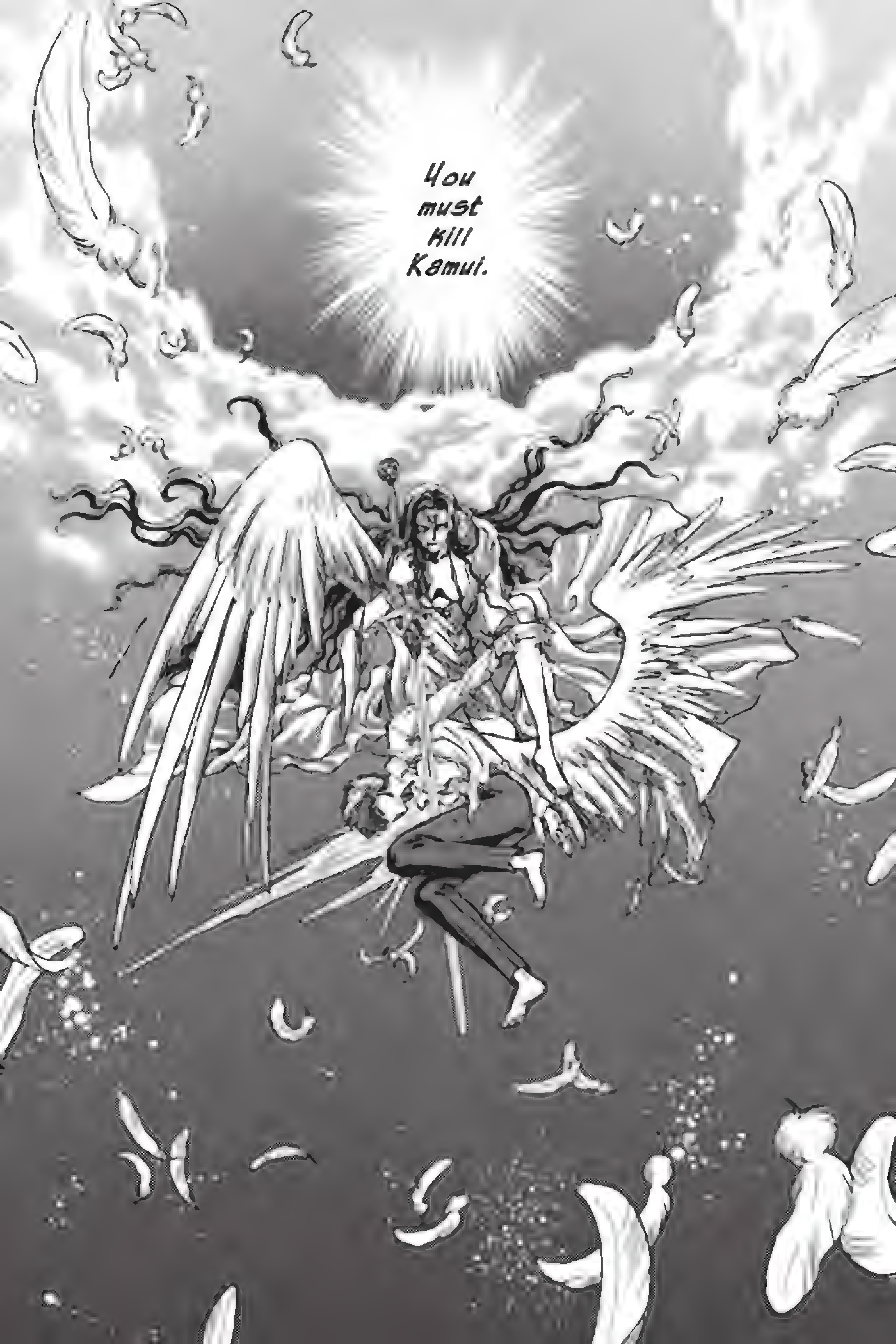

Tmp
I'LL BE OFF NOW, FUMA.
WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT BY YOURSELF?
I'LL BE FINE. IT'S ONLY A CHECK-UP.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M SICK OR ANYTHING. IN FACT, I'VE BEEN FEELING GREAT.
MAYBE...
...MY HEART'S ALL RIGHT NOW?

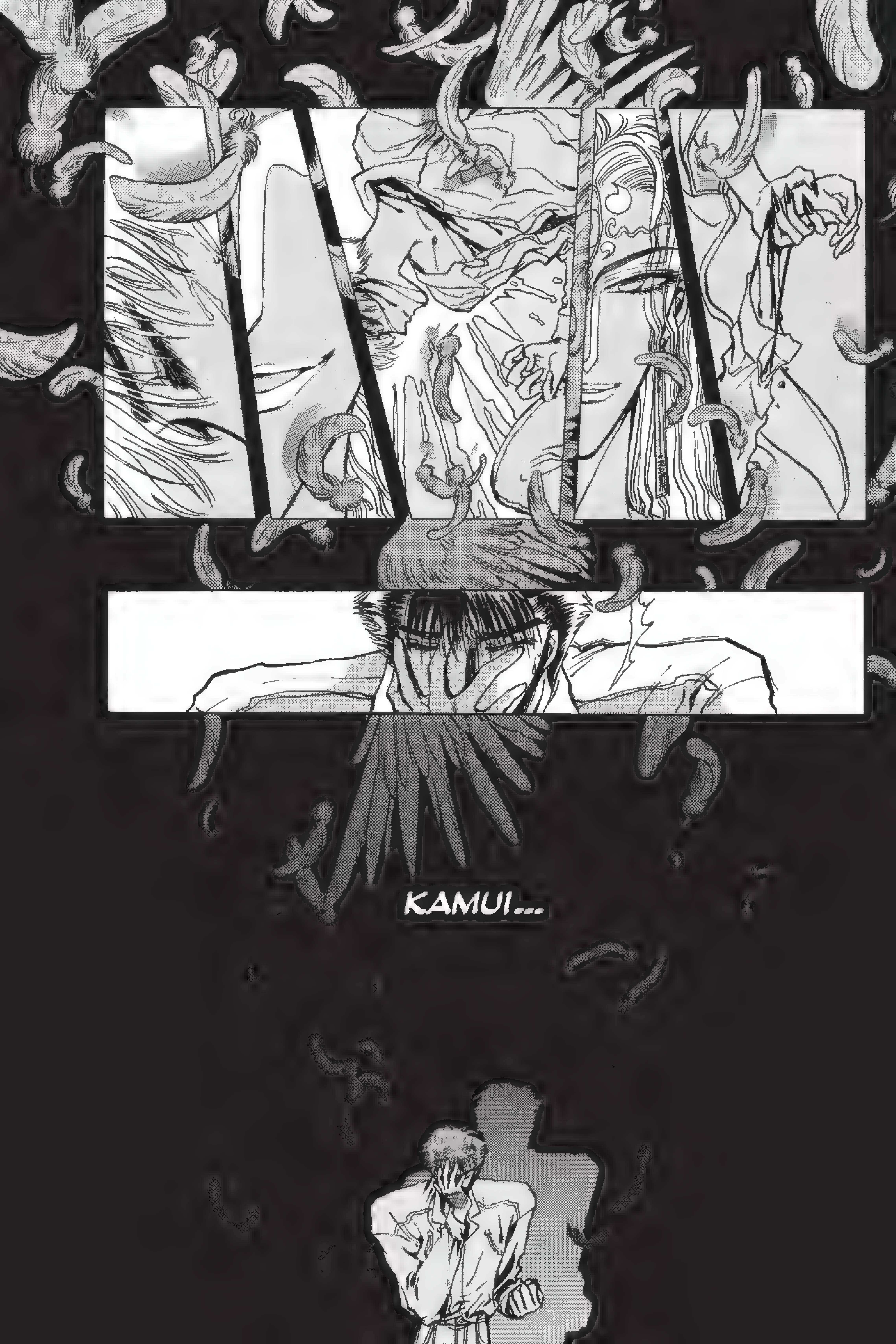

YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP!
I'LL MAKE SOMETHING NICE FOR DINNER WHEN I GET BACK.
WE BOTH HAVE TO EAT LOTS SO WE'LL STAY HEALTHY.
RIGHT?
SCRUNCH
Ha!
TAKE CARE, KOTORI.

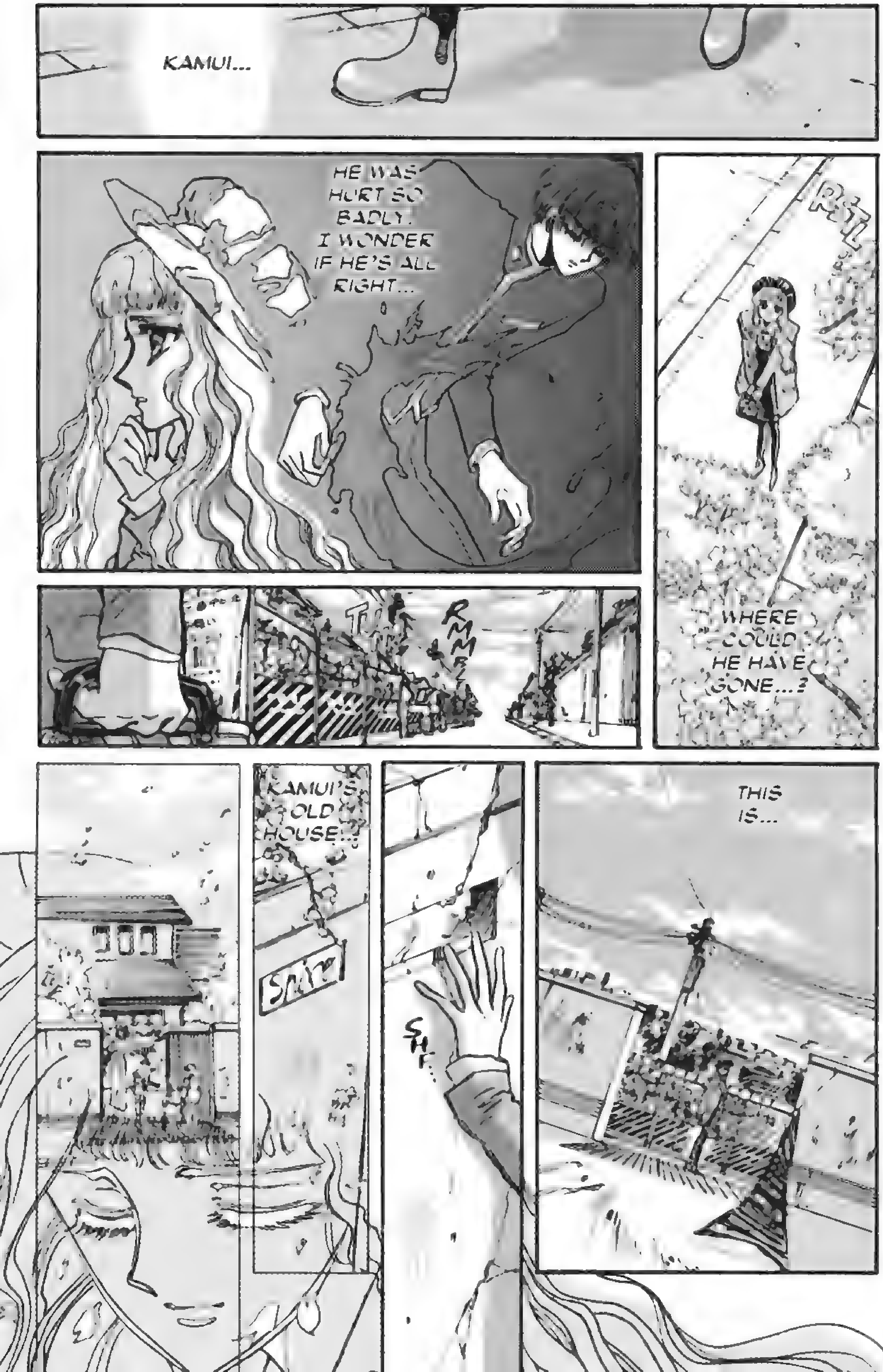

BYE BYE
KOTORI...

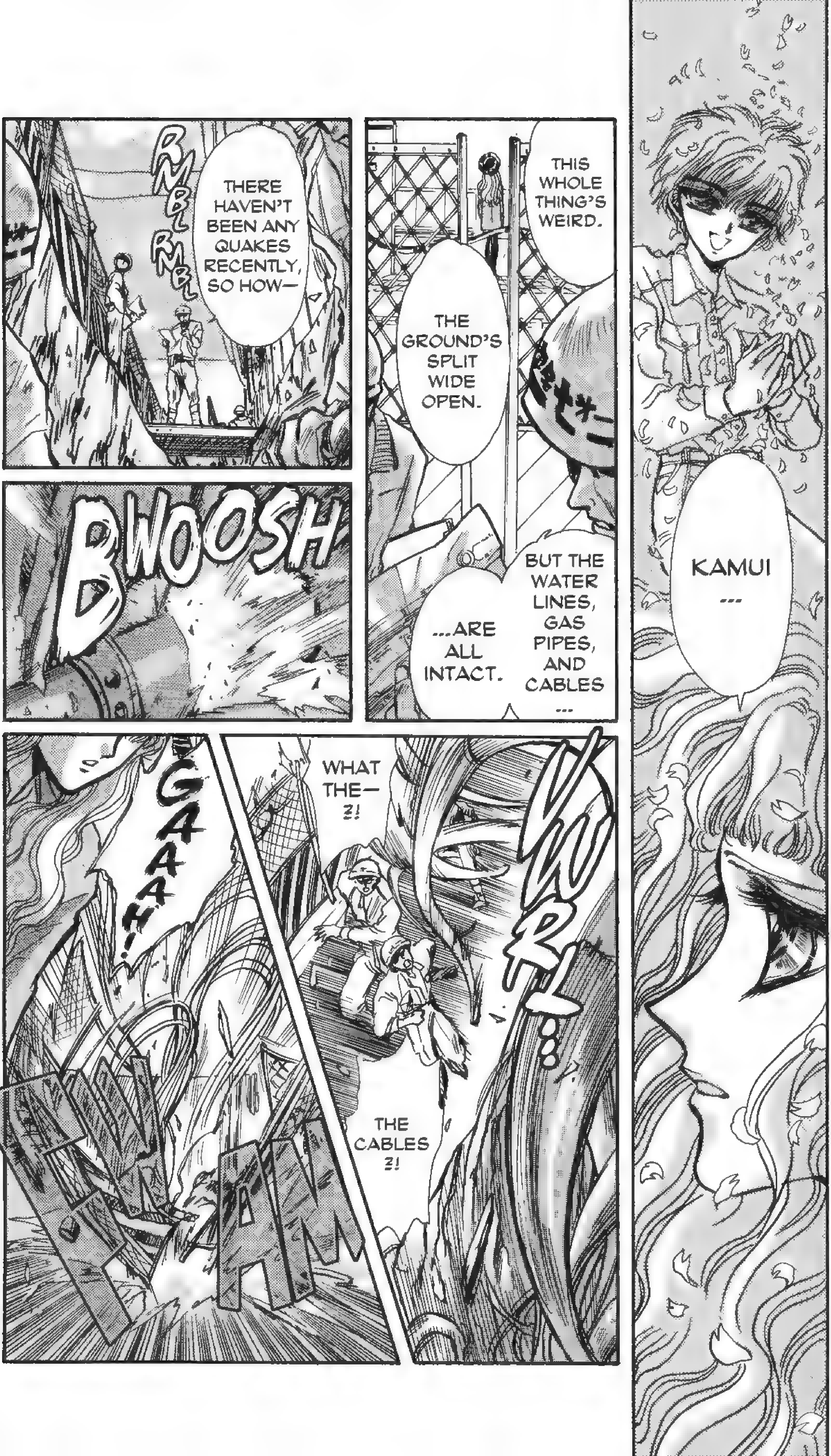

WHERE... DID YOU GO?
KAMUI...
THERE WAS SOMETHING I WANTED TO ASK HIM.
NO...

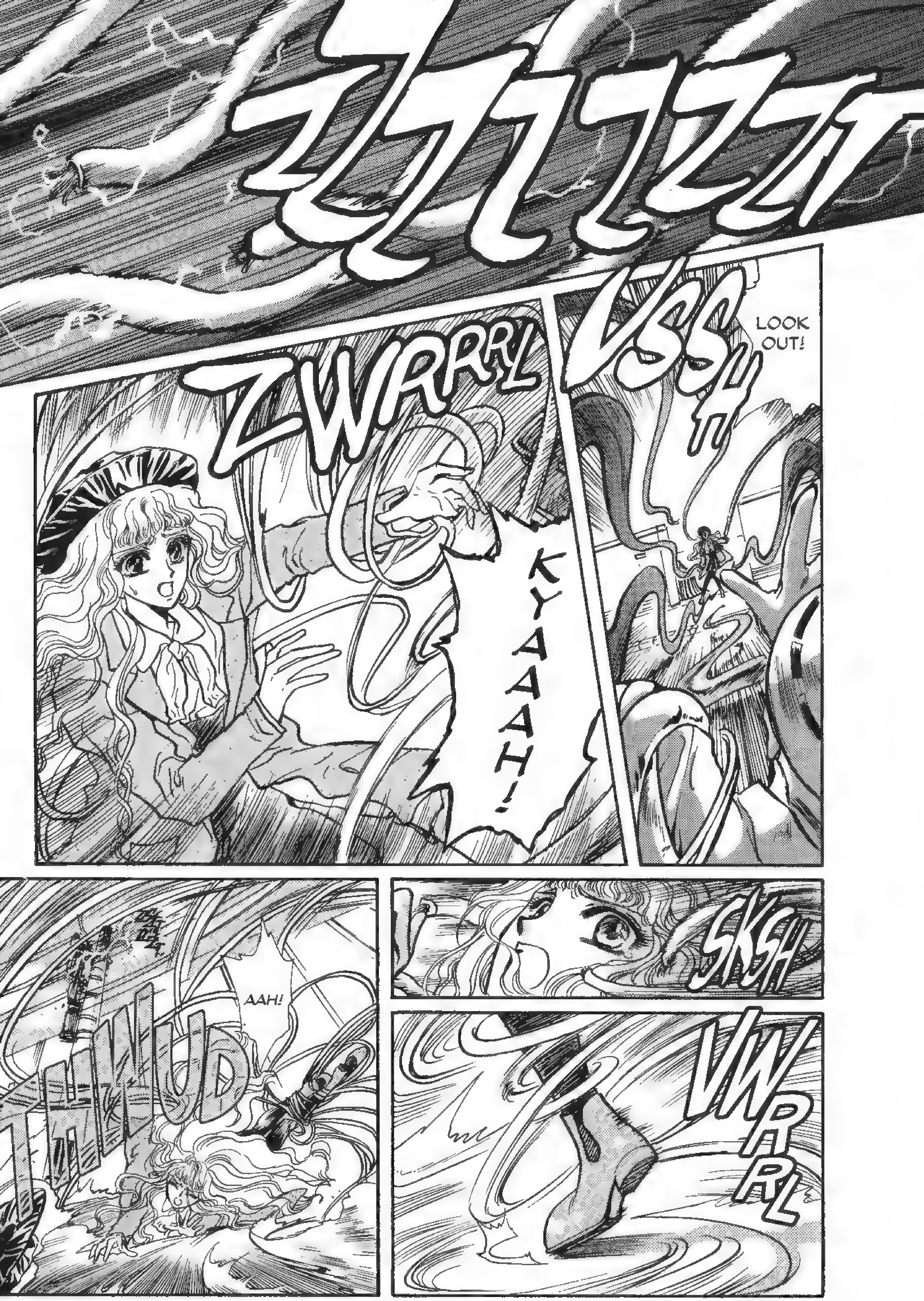

THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO ASK HIM...
GASP
WHAT DO I HAVE TO ASK HIM?
WHAT IS IT?
I...
WHY DO I...?
Please save this world.

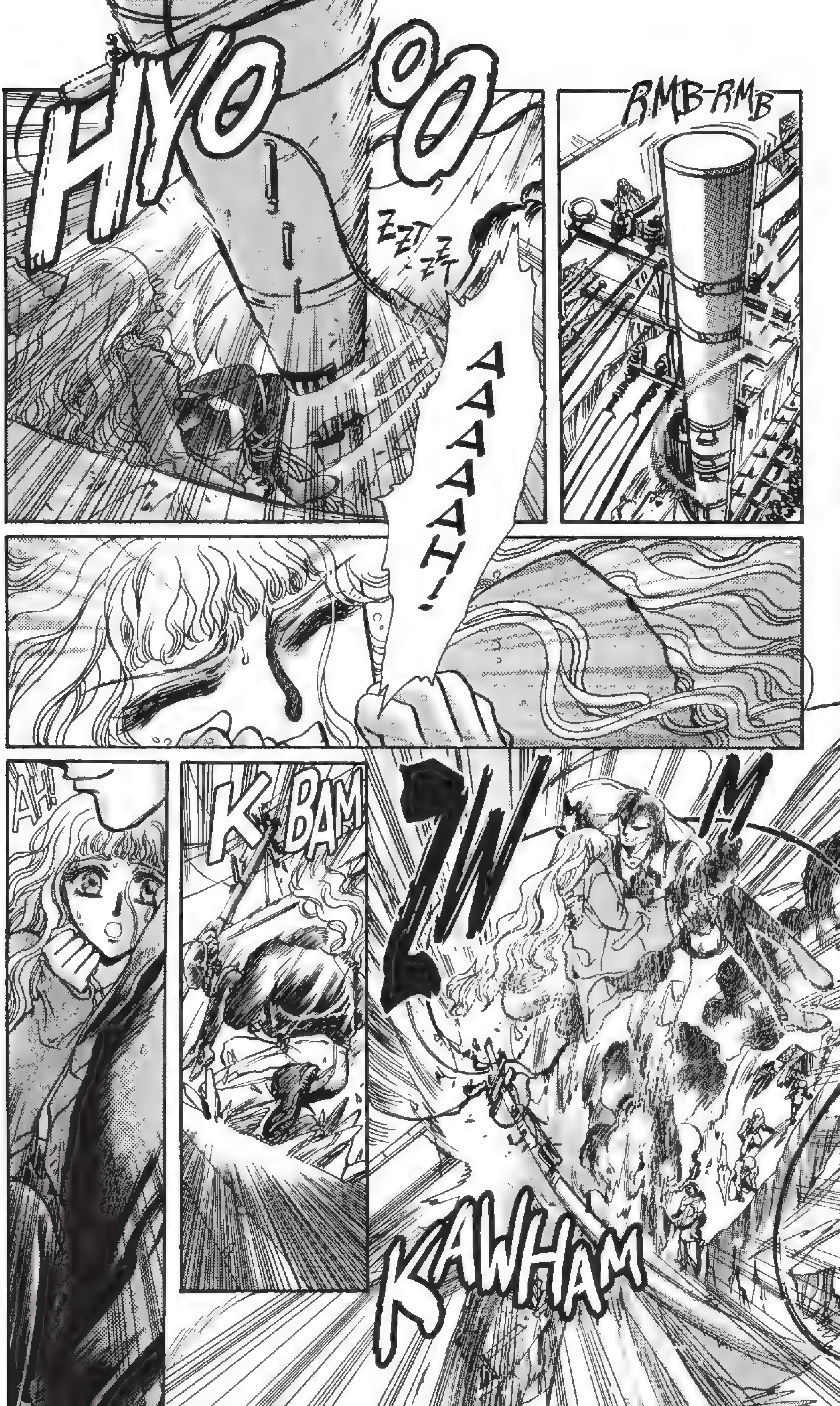

You must kill Kamui.

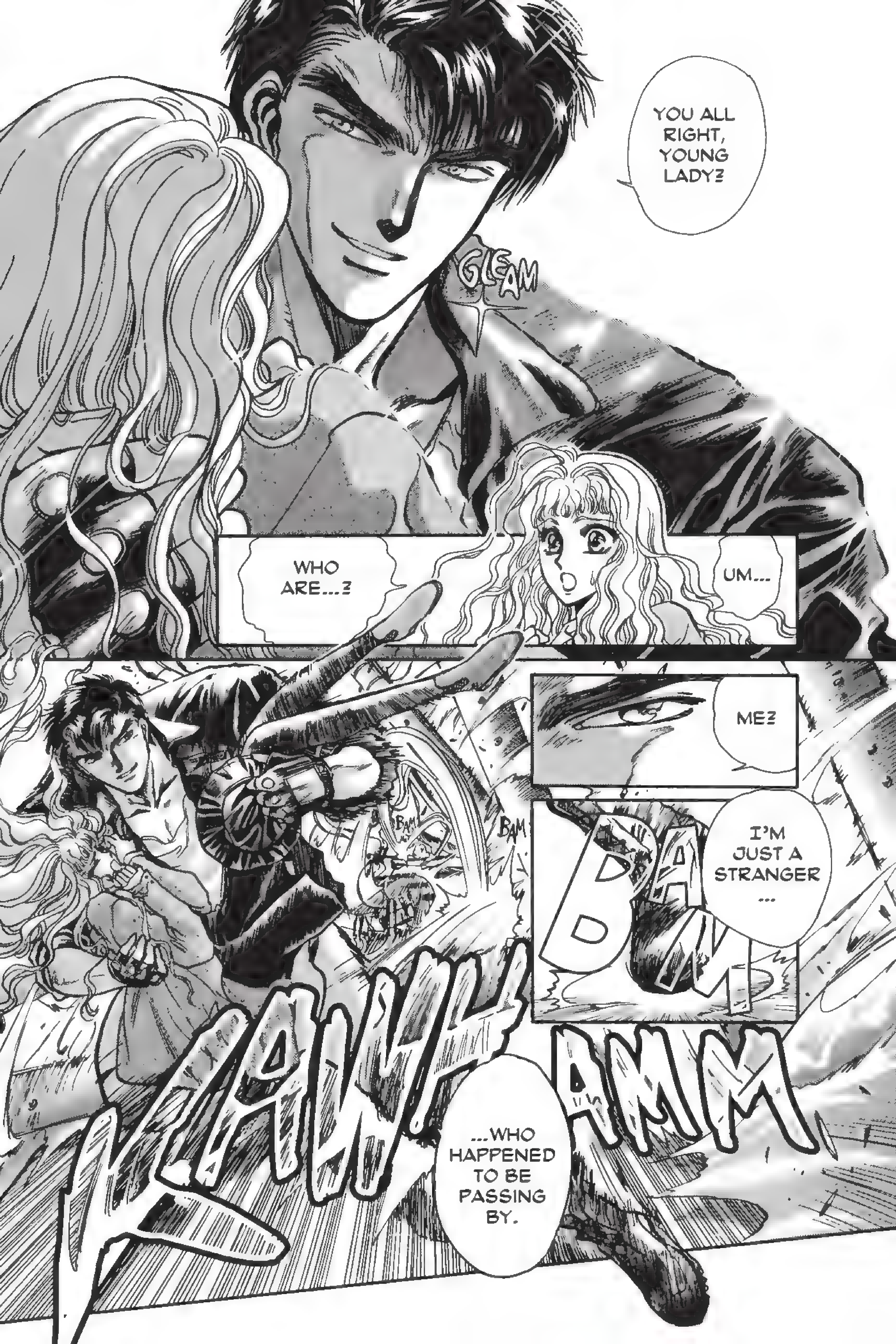

KAMUI...

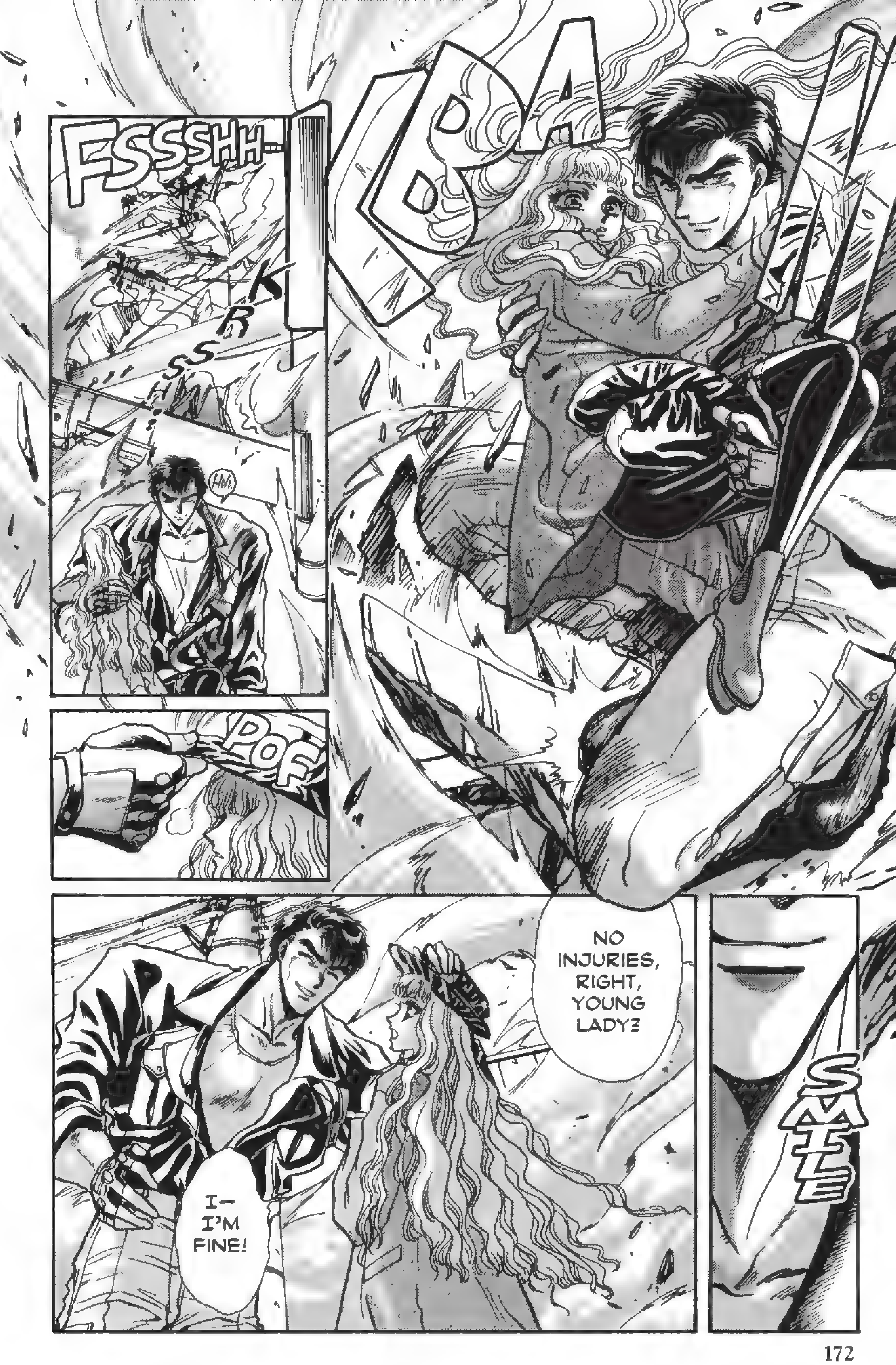

KAMUI...
WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE...?
HE WAS HURT SO BADLY. I WONDER IF HE'S ALL RIGHT...
RMMBL
THIS IS...
SHF...
KAMUI'S OLD HOUSE...!

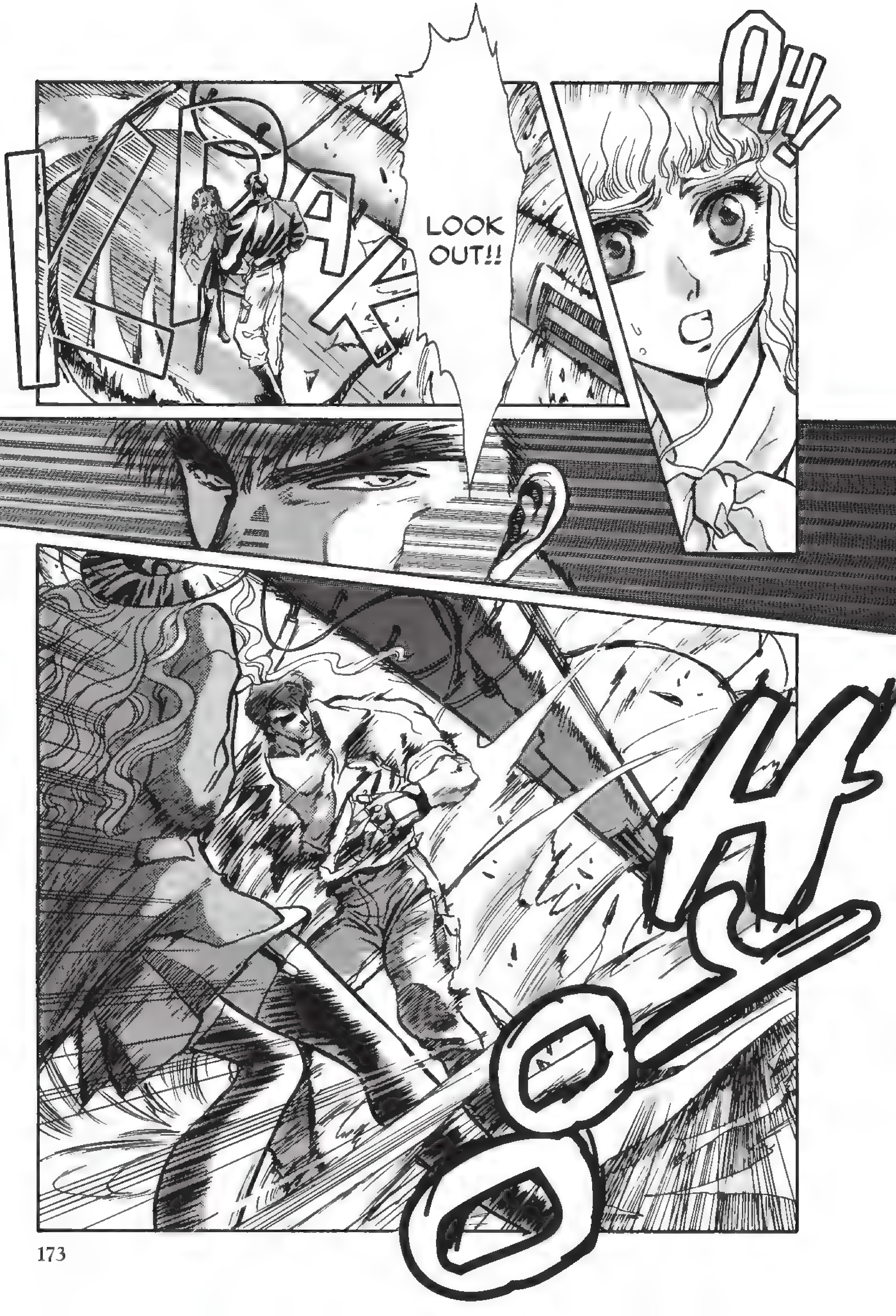

RMBL RMBL
THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY QUAKES RECENTLY, SO HOW—
THIS WHOLE THING'S WEIRD.
THE GROUND'S SPLIT WIDE OPEN.
BUT THE WATER LINES, GAS PIPES, AND CABLES ...
...ARE ALL INTACT.
BWOOSH
GAAAH!
WHAT THE—?!
WHURL!...
THE CABLES?!
BAM
KAMUI ...

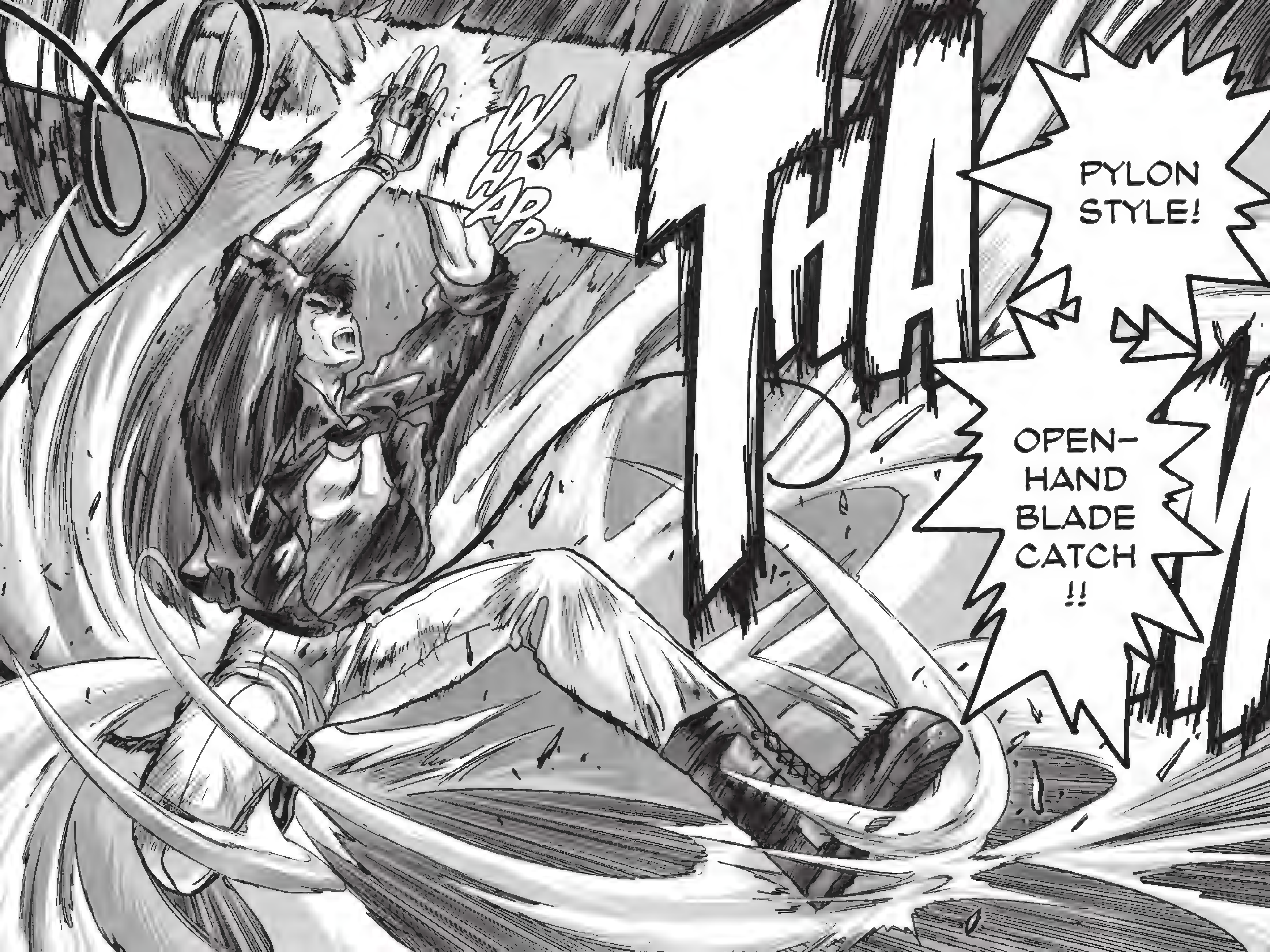

ZZZZZZT
VSSH
LOOK OUT!
ZWIRRRL
KYAAAAH!
SKSH
VWRRL
AAH!
THWUD

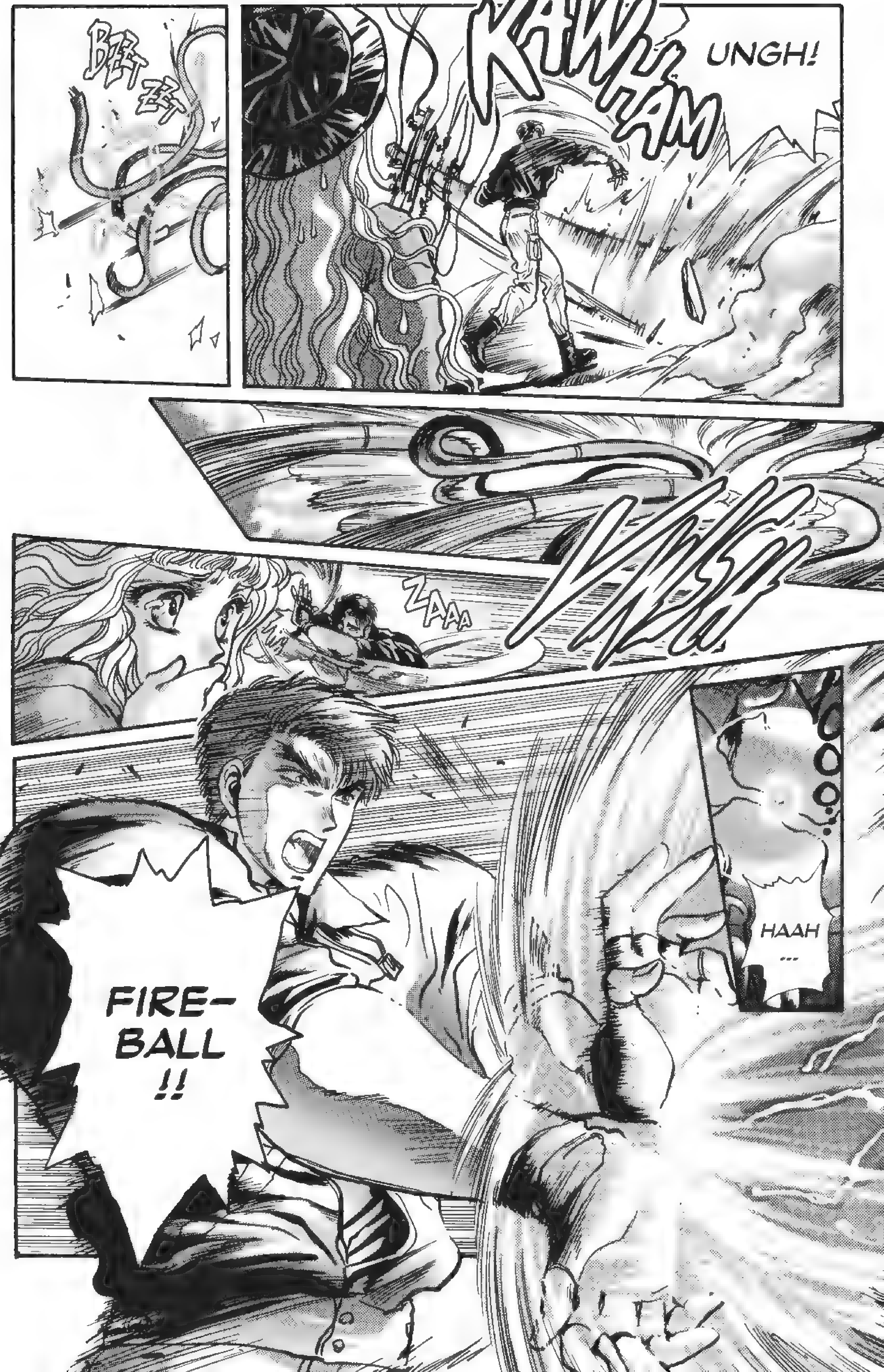

HIYOOO
RMB-RMB
ZZT ZZT
AAAAAAH!
AH!
K-BAM
ZWM
KAWHAM

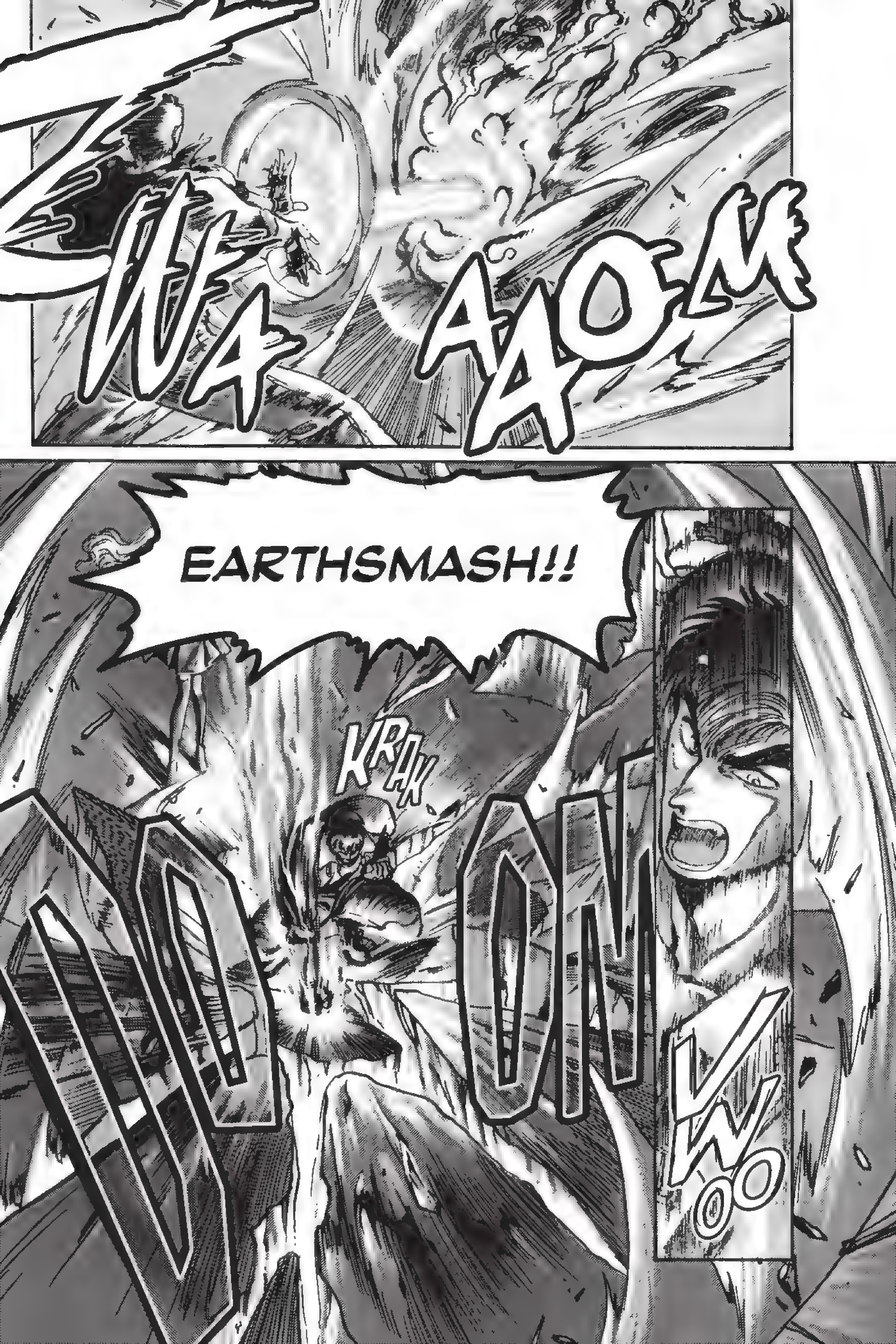

YOU ALL RIGHT, YOUNG LADY?
GLEAM
UM...
WHO ARE...?
ME?
I'M JUST A STRANGER ...
BAM
BAM
BADAM
AMM
...WHO HAPPENED TO BE PASSING BY.

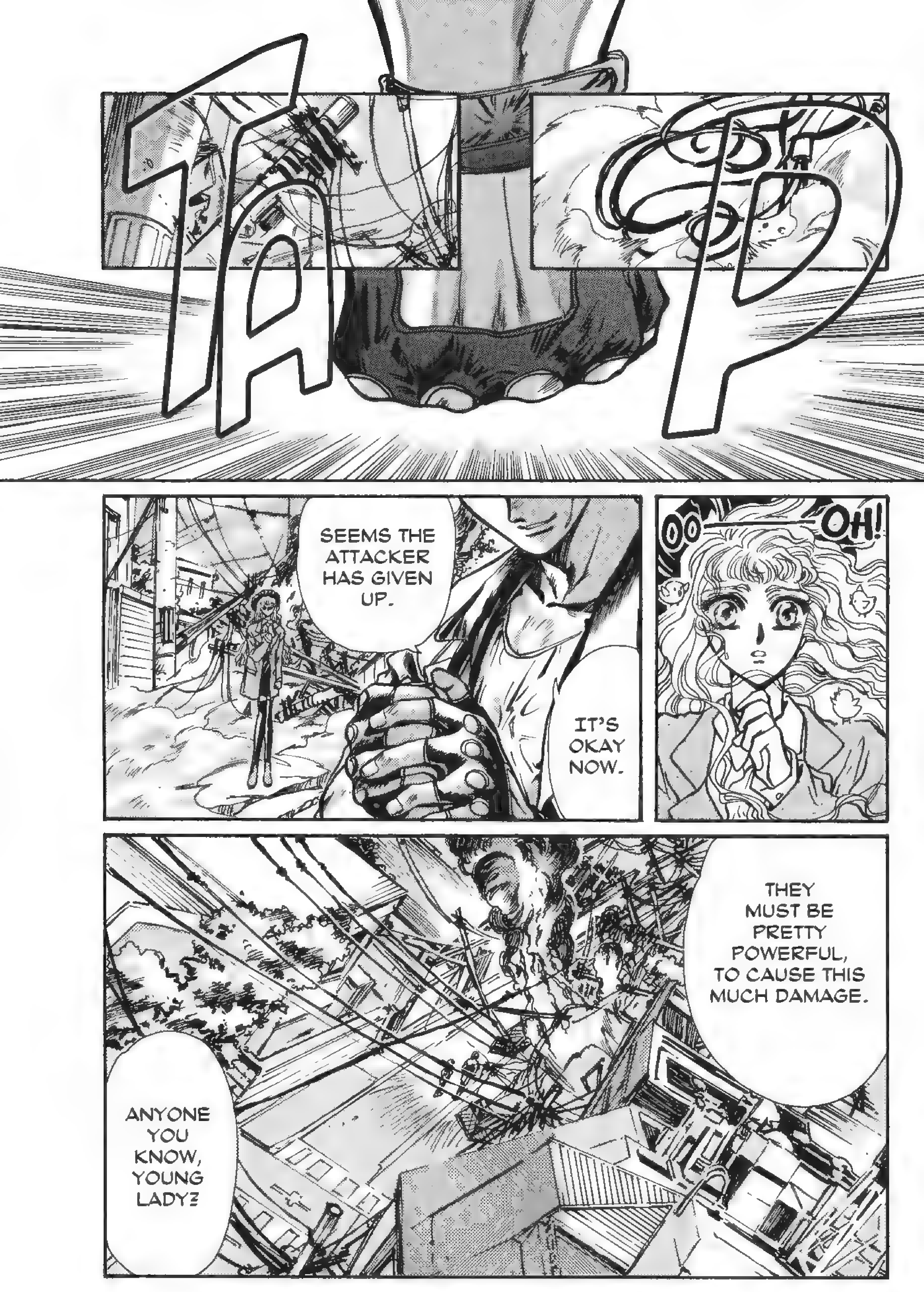

BA!!!
FSSSHH...
KRSSSH
Hn!
POF
SMILE
NO INJURIES, RIGHT, YOUNG LADY?
I— I'M FINE!

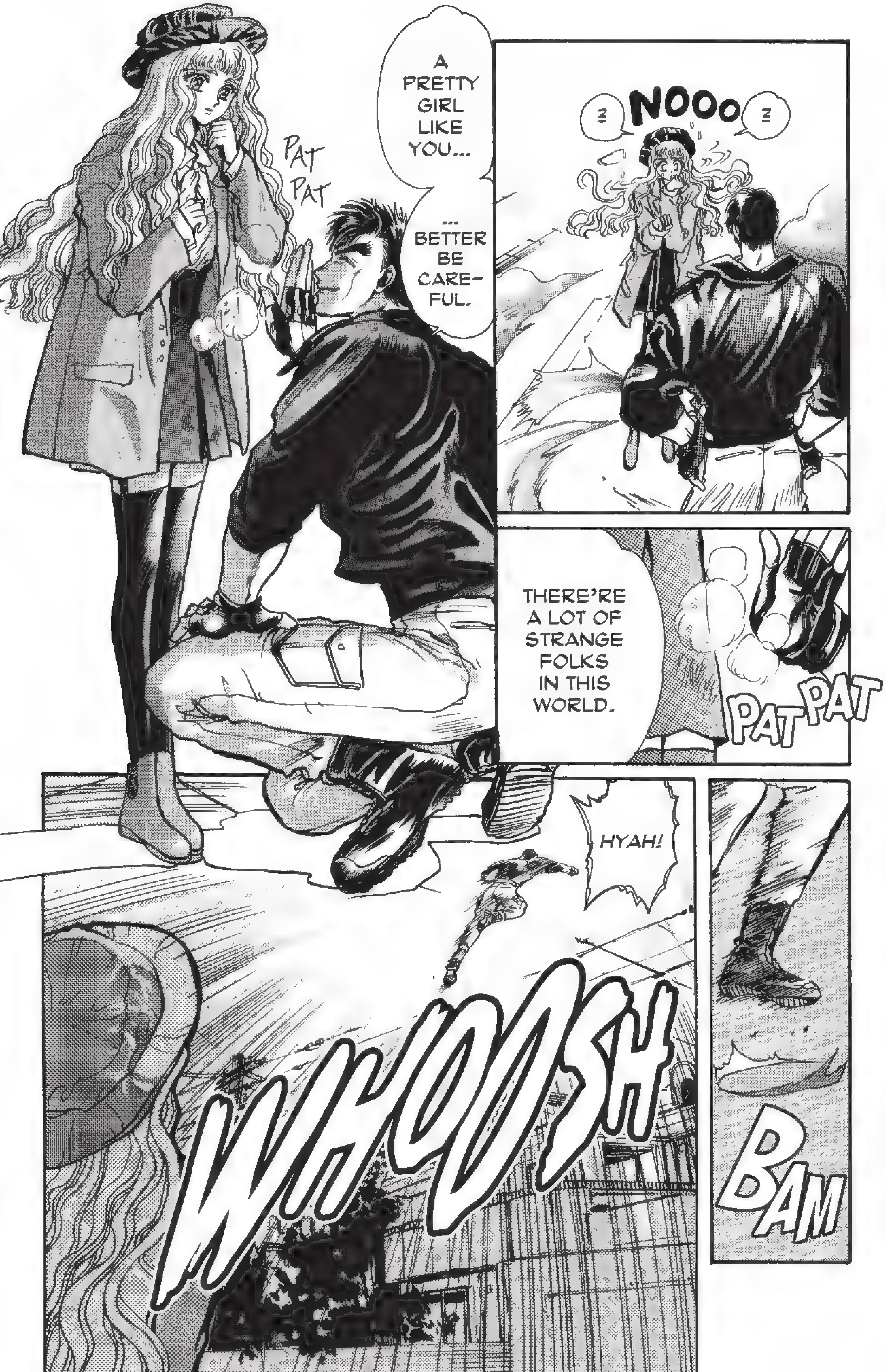

OH!
LOOK OUT!!

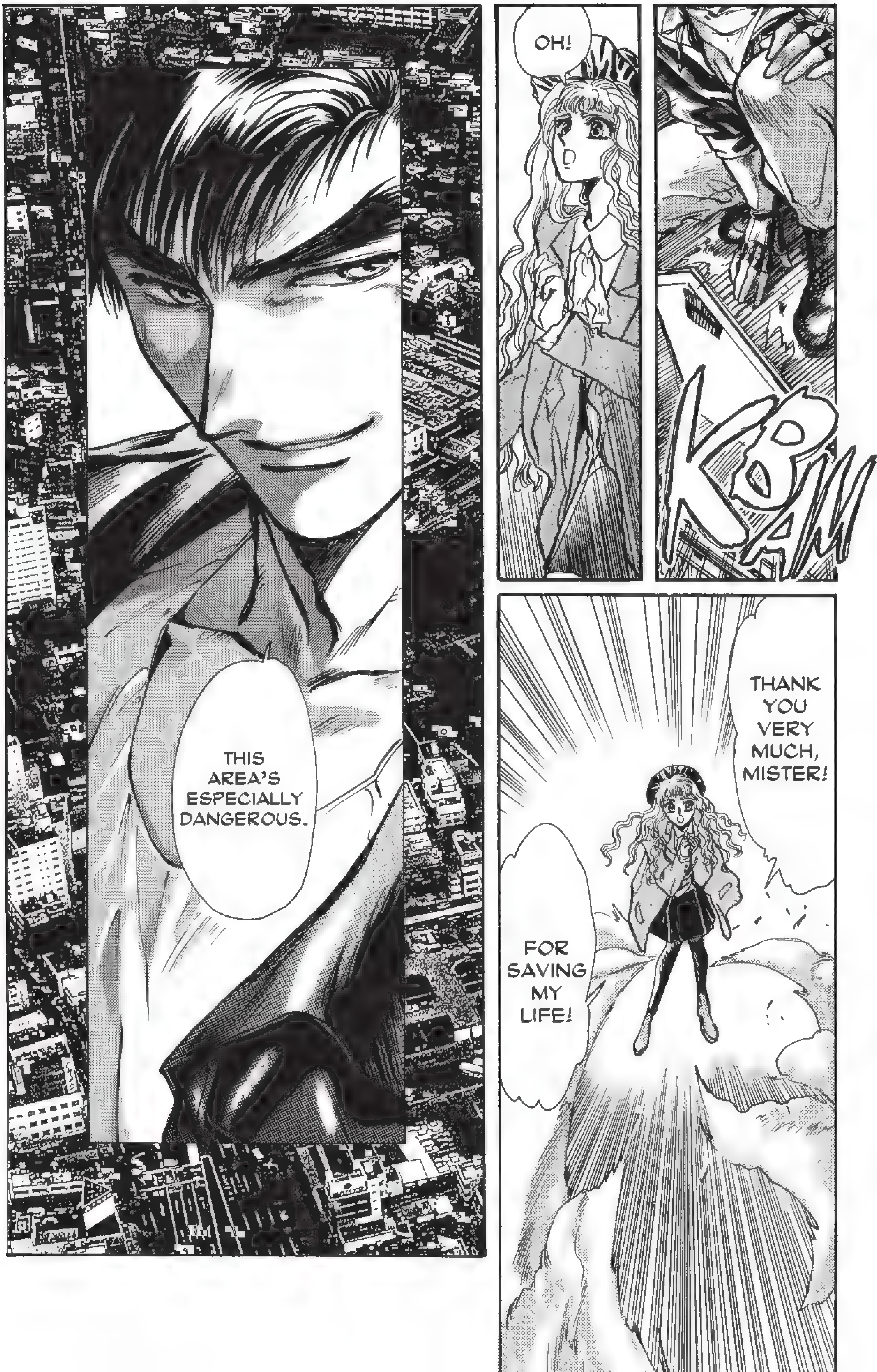

PYLON STYLE!
OPEN-HAND BLADE CATCH !!
THA
WHAPP

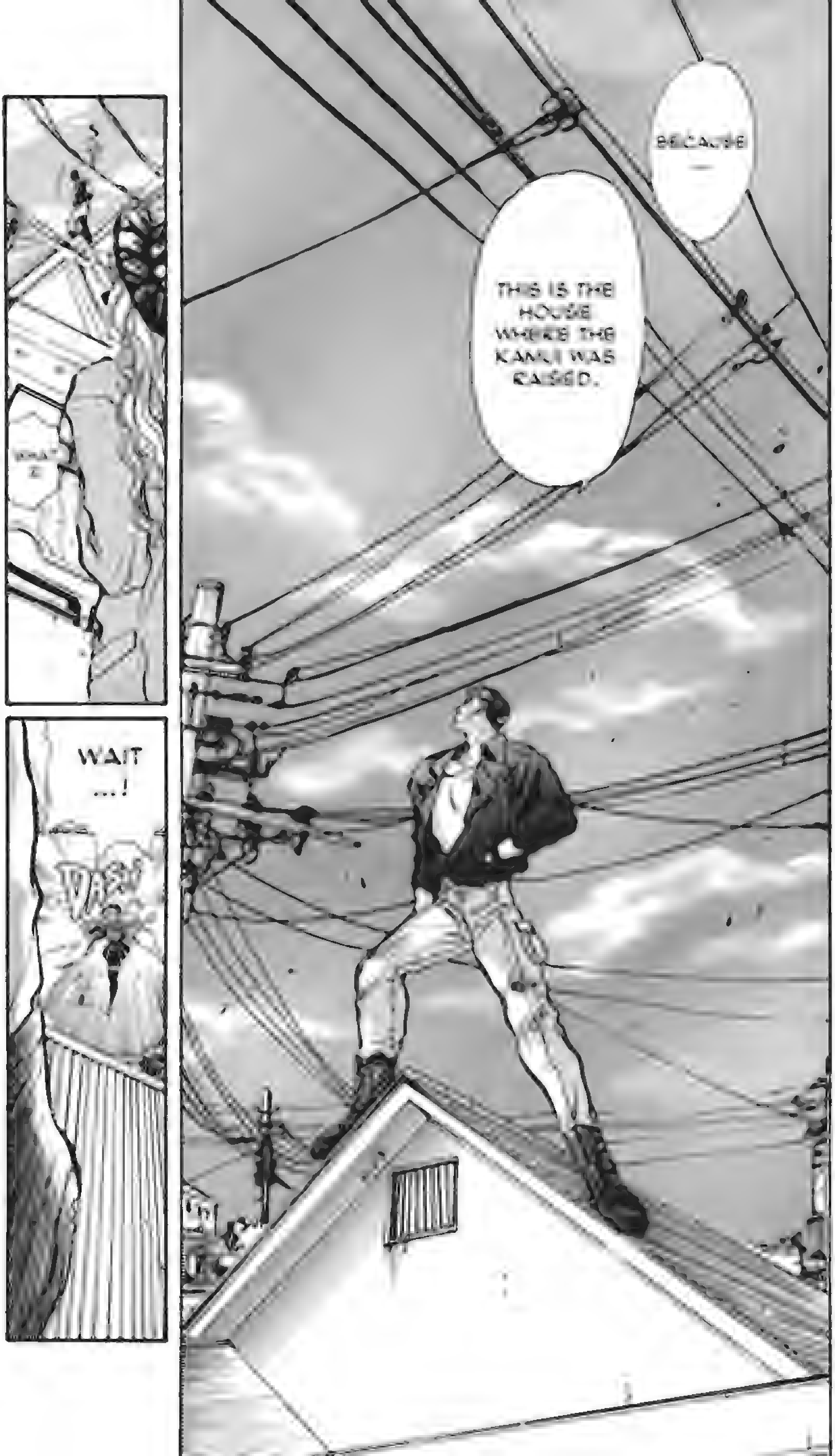

KAWHAM
UNGH!
BZZT ZZT
WHISH
ZAAA
OOOO...
HAAH ...
FIRE-BALL !!

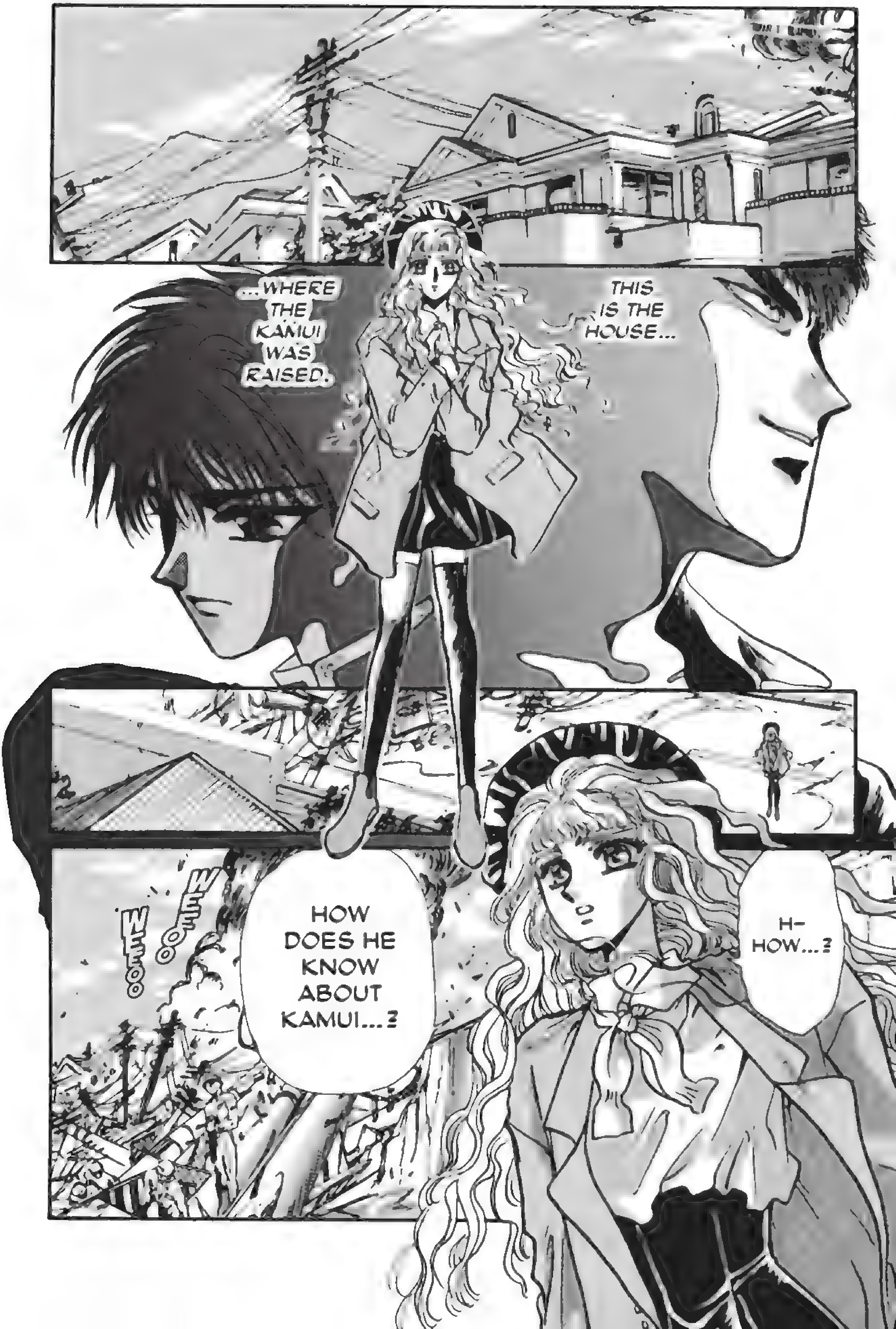

WAAAOM
EARTHSMASH!!
KRAK
WHOOM
VWOO


TAP
TAP
OO—OH!
SEEMS THE ATTACKER HAS GIVEN UP.
IT'S OKAY NOW.
THEY MUST BE PRETTY POWERFUL, TO CAUSE THIS MUCH DAMAGE.
ANYONE YOU KNOW, YOUNG LADY?

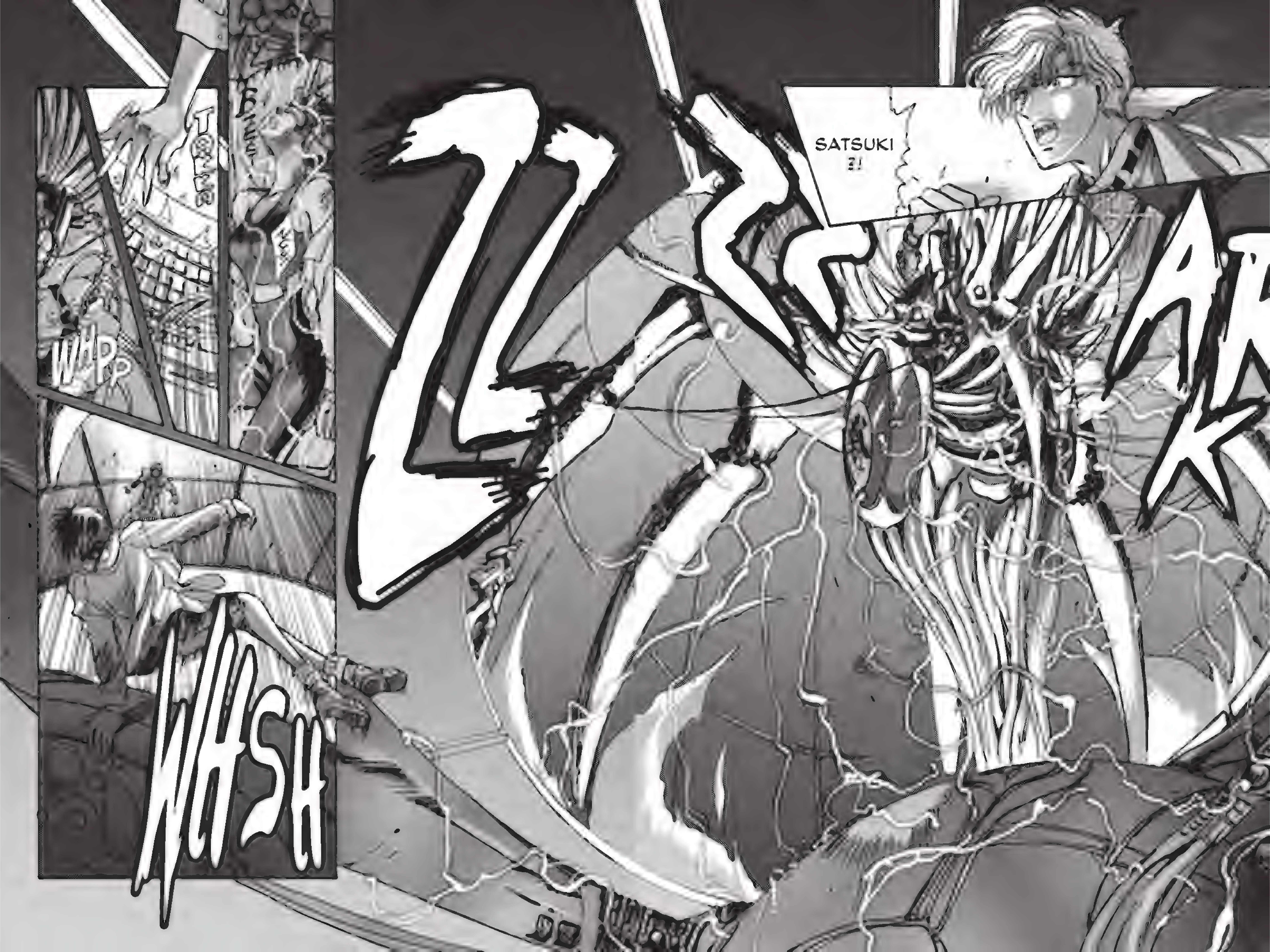

PAT PAT
A PRETTY GIRL LIKE YOU...
... BETTER BE CAREFUL.
NOOO
THERE'RE A LOT OF STRANGE FOLKS IN THIS WORLD.
PAT PAT
HYAH!
WHOOSH
BAM

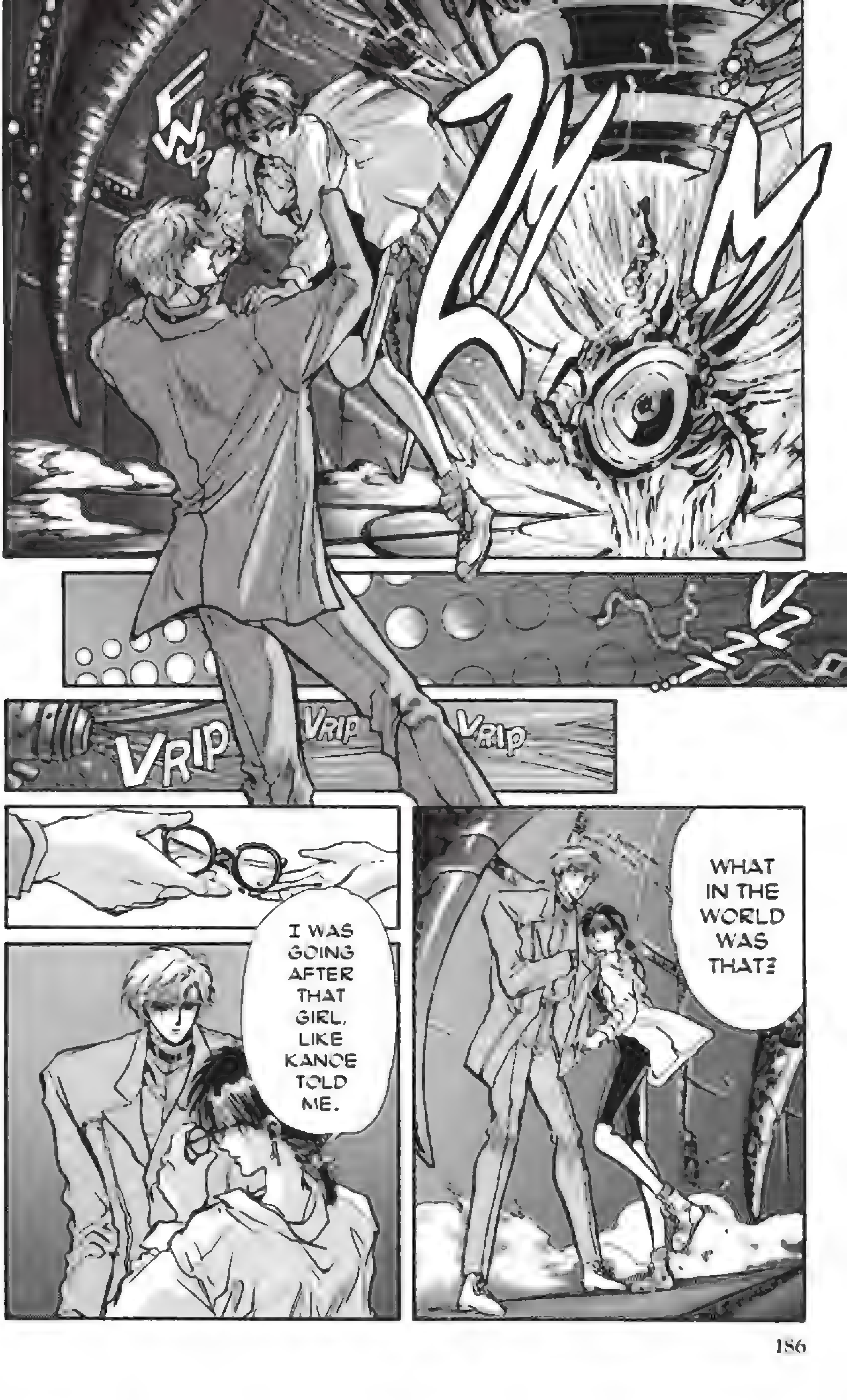

KBAM
OH!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MISTER!
FOR SAVING MY LIFE!
THIS AREA'S ESPECIALLY DANGEROUS.

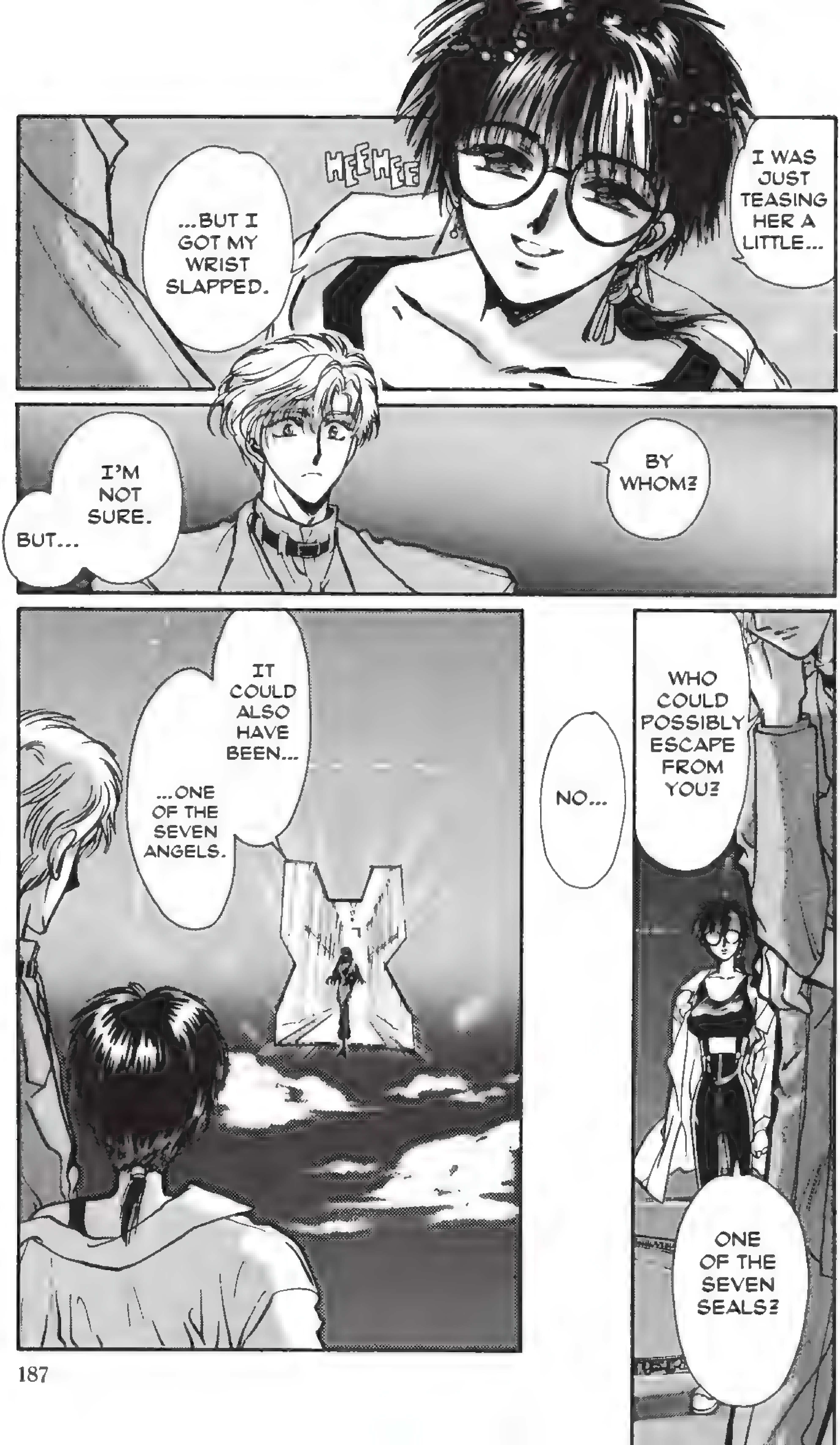

BECAUSE —
THIS IS THE HOUSE WHERE THE KAMUI WAS RAISED.
WHAT ...?
WAIT ...!
DASH

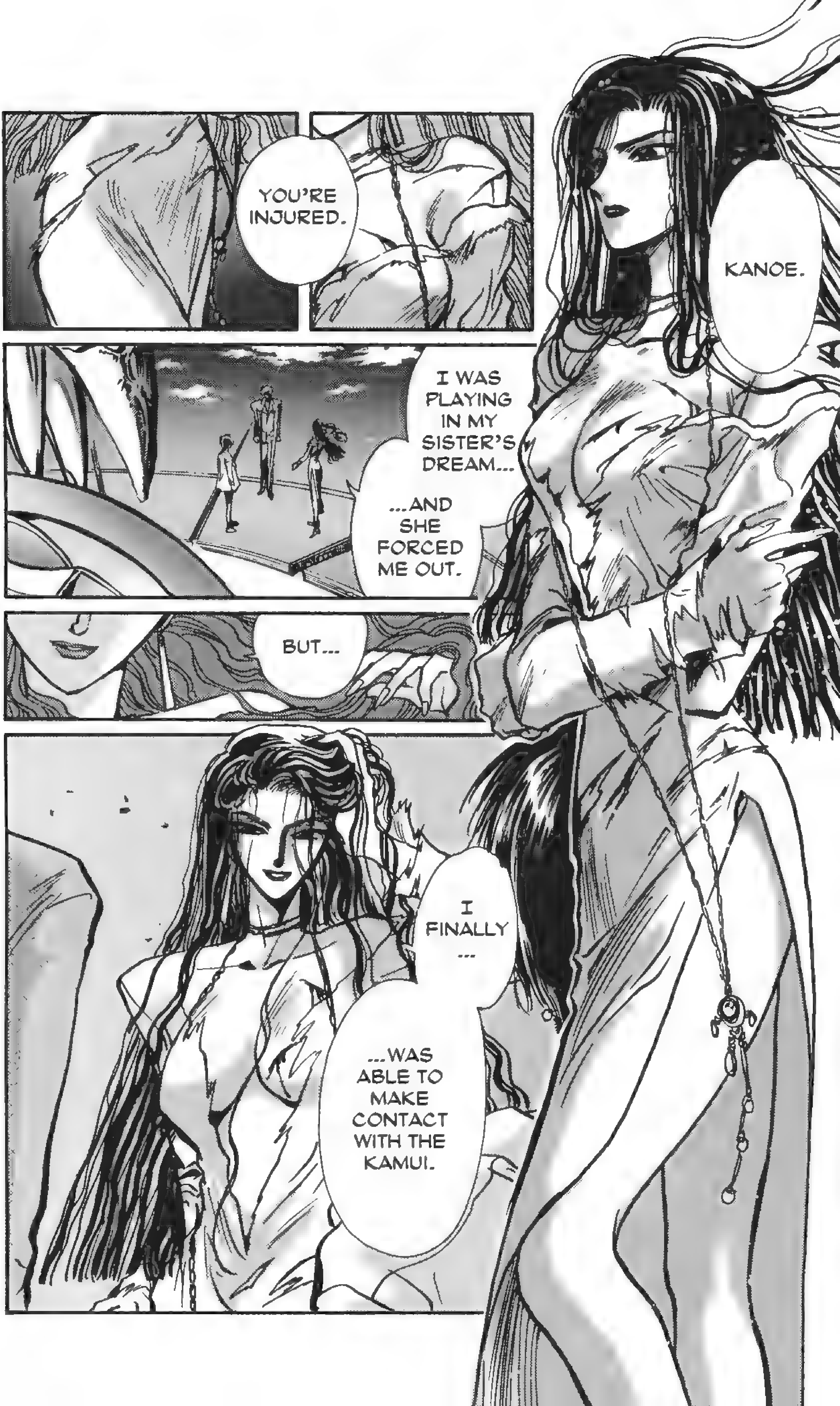

THIS IS THE HOUSE...
...WHERE THE KAMUI WAS RAISED.
H-HOW...?
HOW DOES HE KNOW ABOUT KAMUI...?
WEEOO
WEEOO

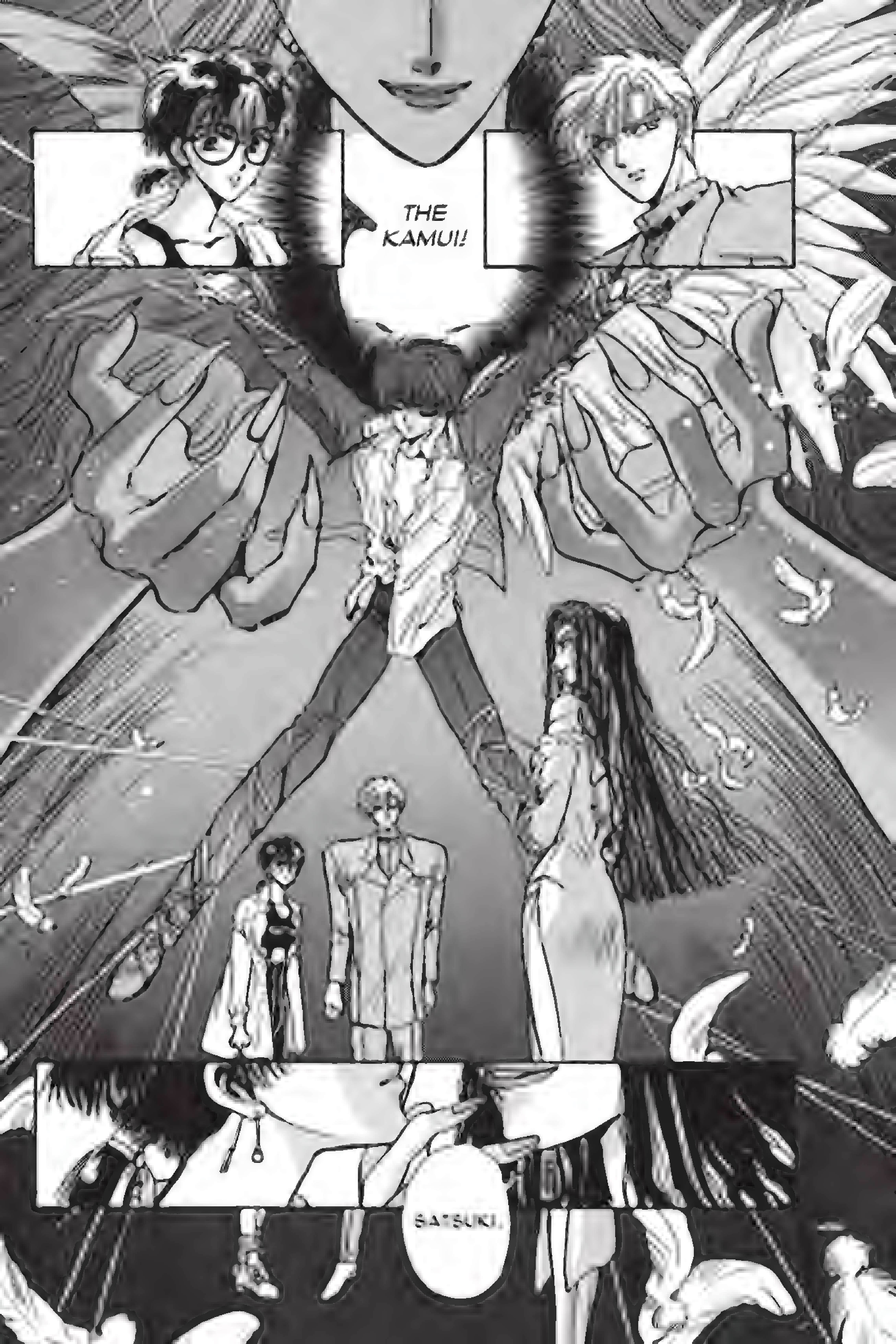
BEEP BEEP
BEEP
KRASH

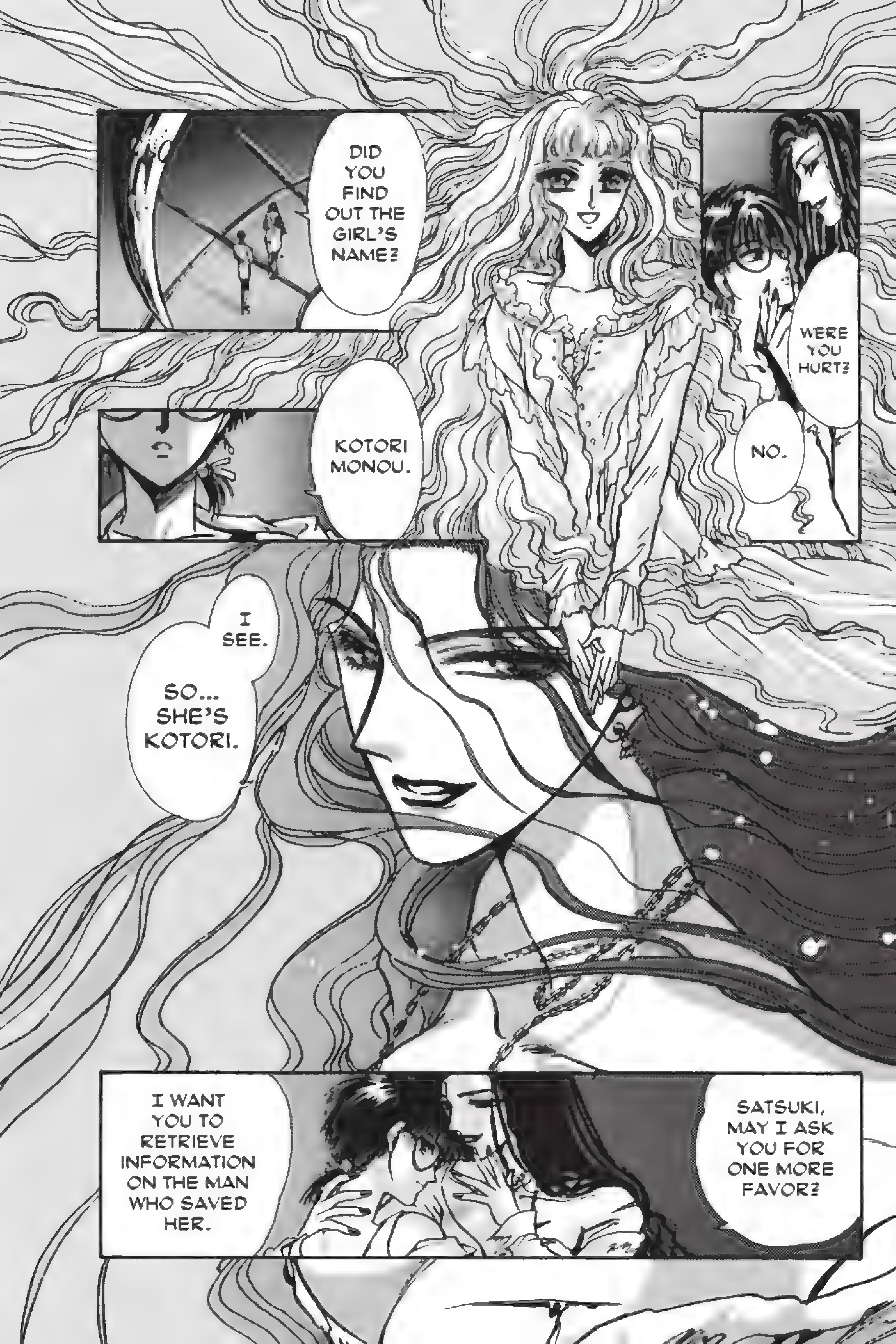

SATSUKI ?!
ZZZAK
WHPP
WHSH

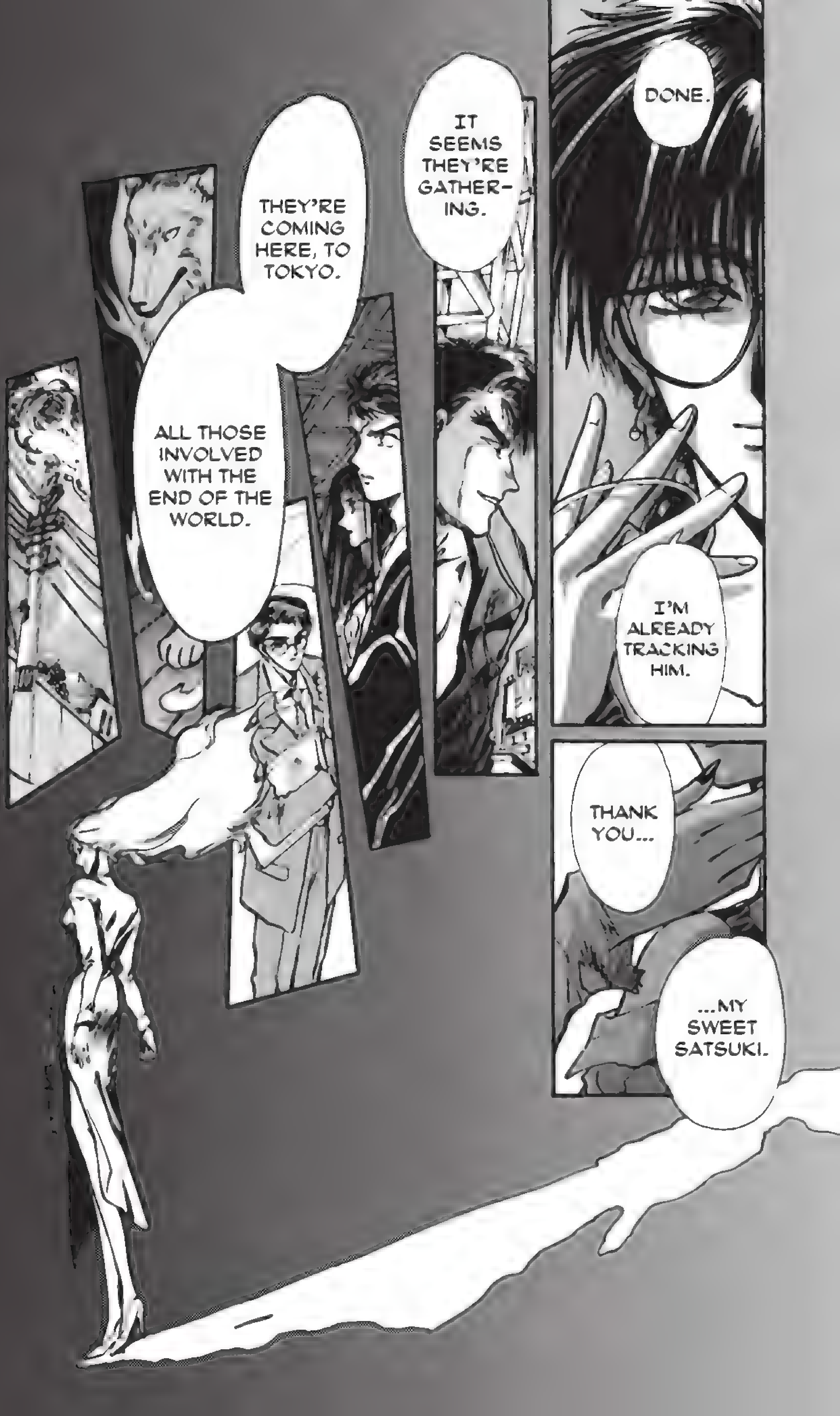

ZMM
FWUP
VZZ
VRIP VRIP VRIP
WHAT IN THE WORLD WAS THAT?
I WAS GOING AFTER THAT GIRL, LIKE KANOE TOLD ME.

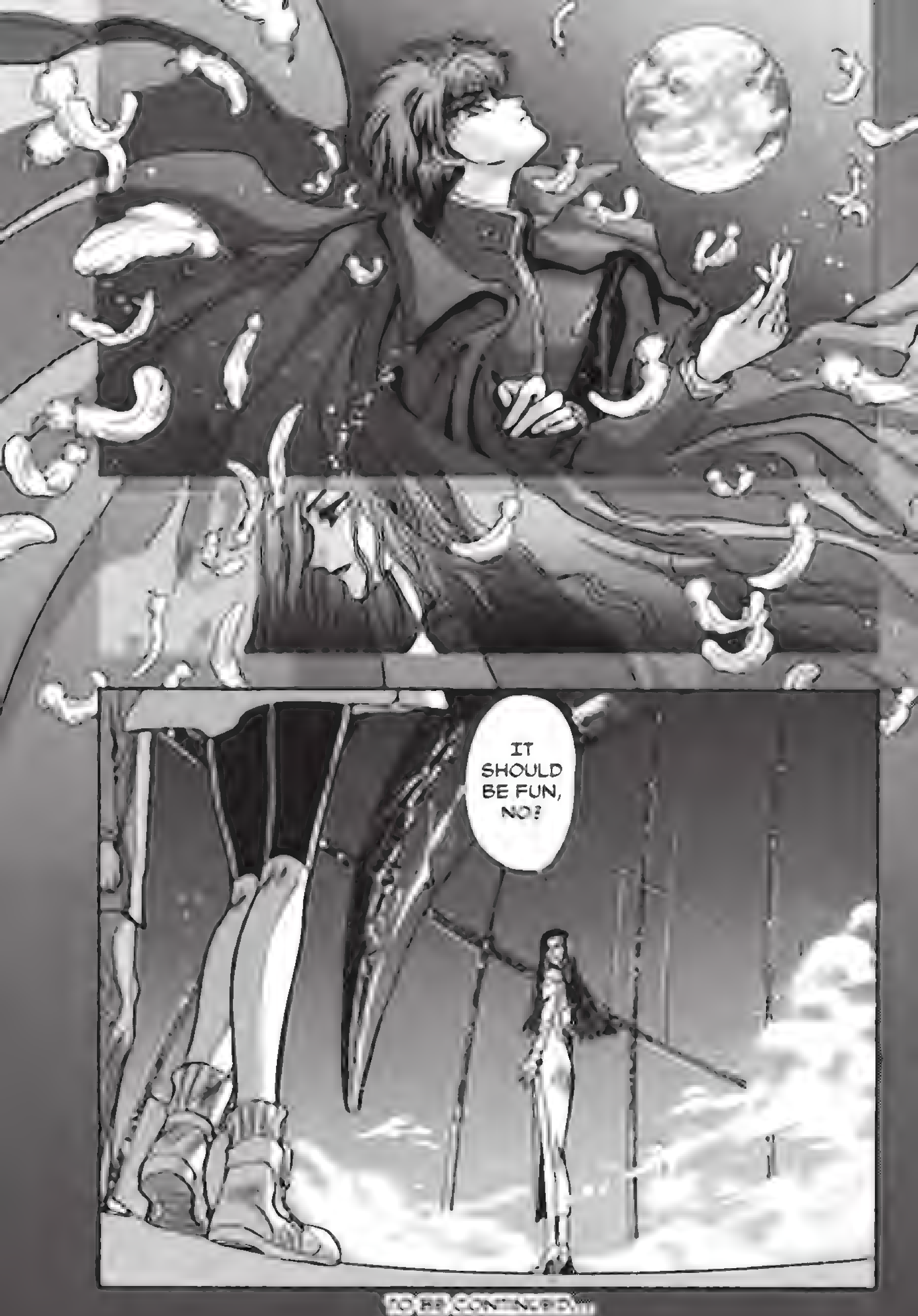

I WAS JUST TEASING HER A LITTLE...
HEEHEE
...BUT I GOT MY WRIST SLAPPED.
BY WHOM?
I'M NOT SURE.
BUT...
WHO COULD POSSIBLY ESCAPE FROM YOU?
ONE OF THE SEVEN SEALS?
NO...
IT COULD ALSO HAVE BEEN...
...ONE OF THE SEVEN ANGELS.


KANOE.
YOU'RE INJURED.
I WAS PLAYING IN MY SISTER'S DREAM...
...AND SHE FORCED ME OUT.
BUT...
I FINALLY...
...WAS ABLE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE KAMUI.


THE KAMUI!
SATSUKI.


DID YOU FIND OUT THE GIRL'S NAME?
WERE YOU HURT?
NO.
KOTORI MONOU.
I SEE.
SO... SHE'S KOTORI.
SATSUKI, MAY I ASK YOU FOR ONE MORE FAVOR?
I WANT YOU TO RETRIEVE INFORMATION ON THE MAN WHO SAVED HER.


DONE.
I'M ALREADY TRACKING HIM.
IT SEEMS THEY'RE GATHERING.
THEY'RE COMING HERE, TO TOKYO.
ALL THOSE INVOLVED WITH THE END OF THE WORLD.
THANK YOU...
...MY SWEET SATSUKI.


IT SHOULD BE FUN, NO?

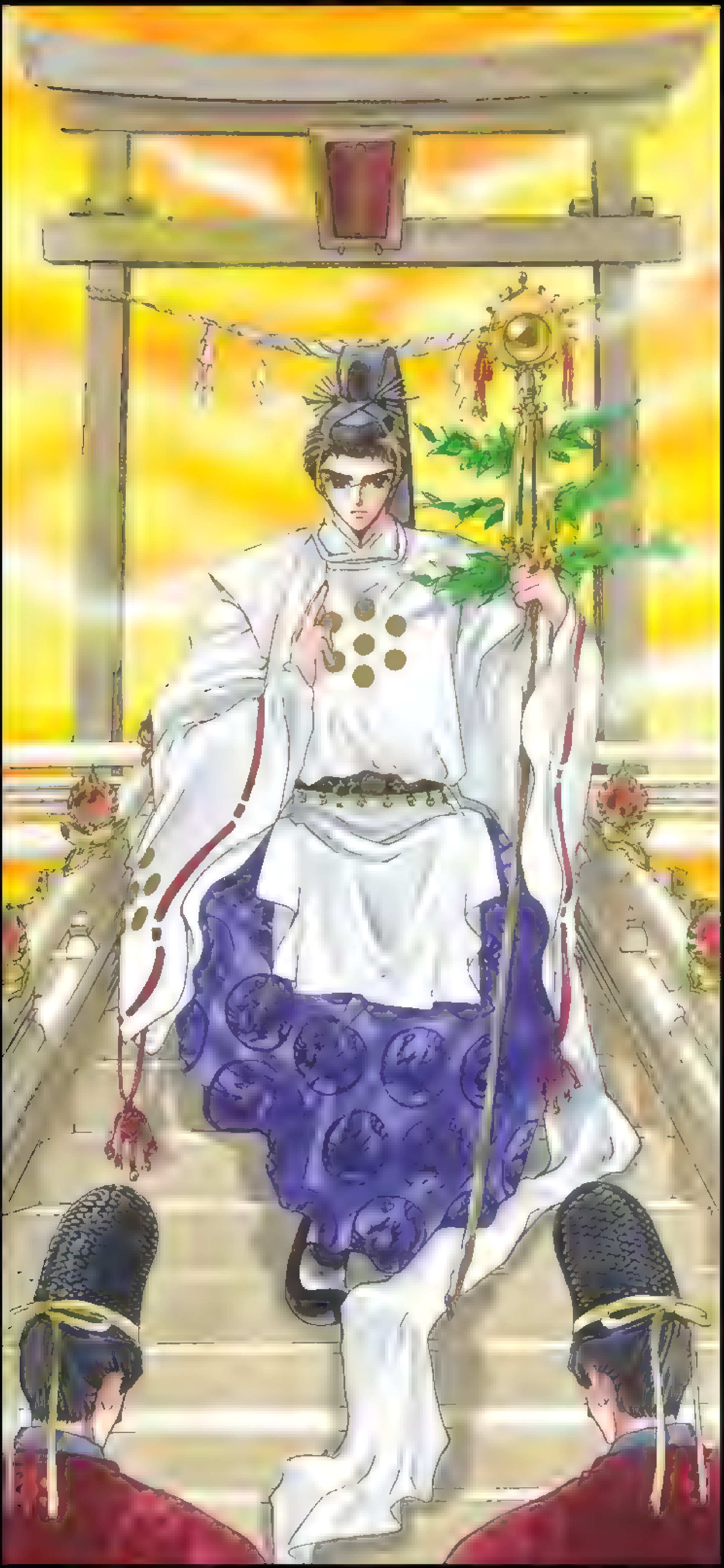
TO BE CONTINUED...

X

VOLUME 2, PART 2

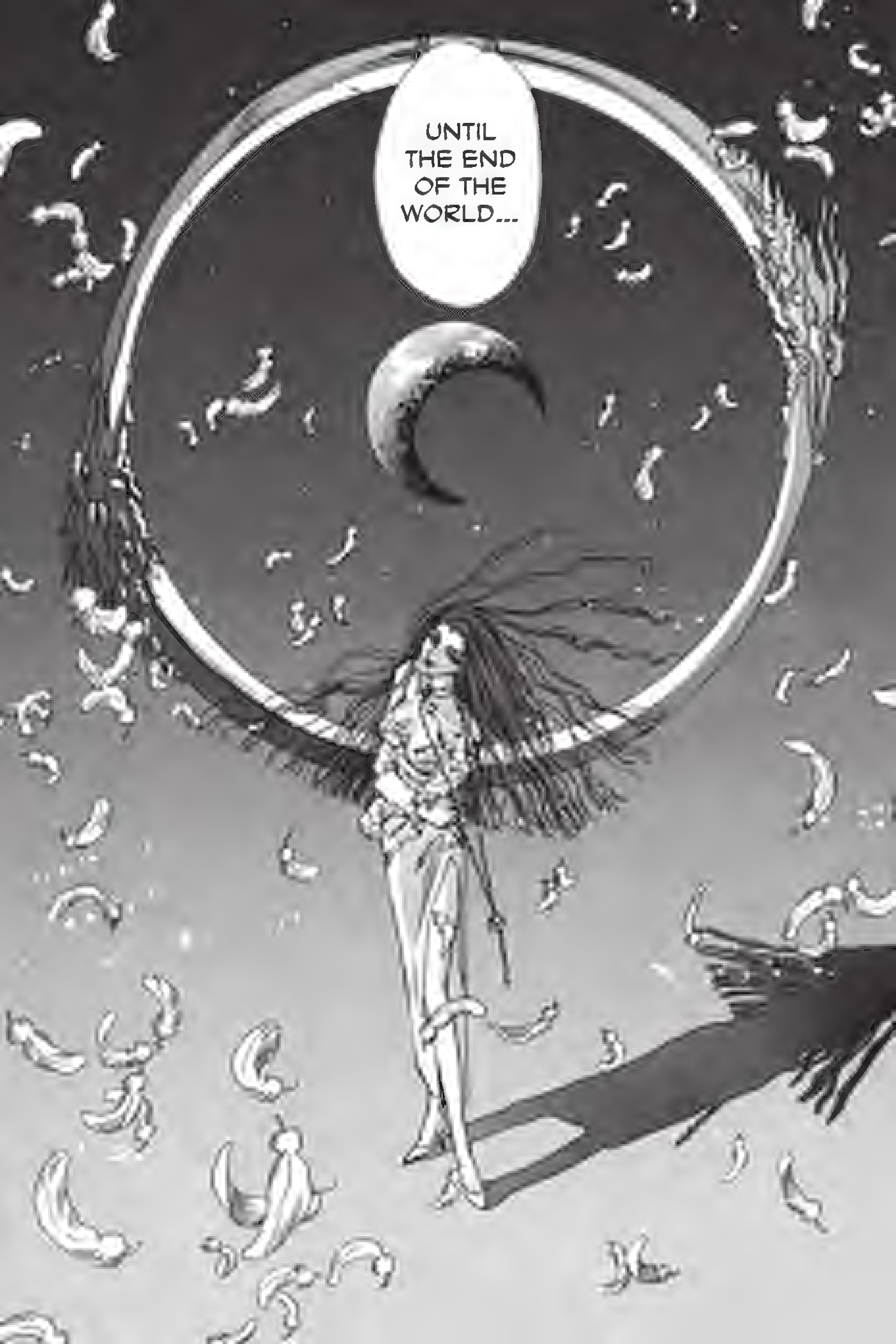
THE SEVEN LUMINARIES III

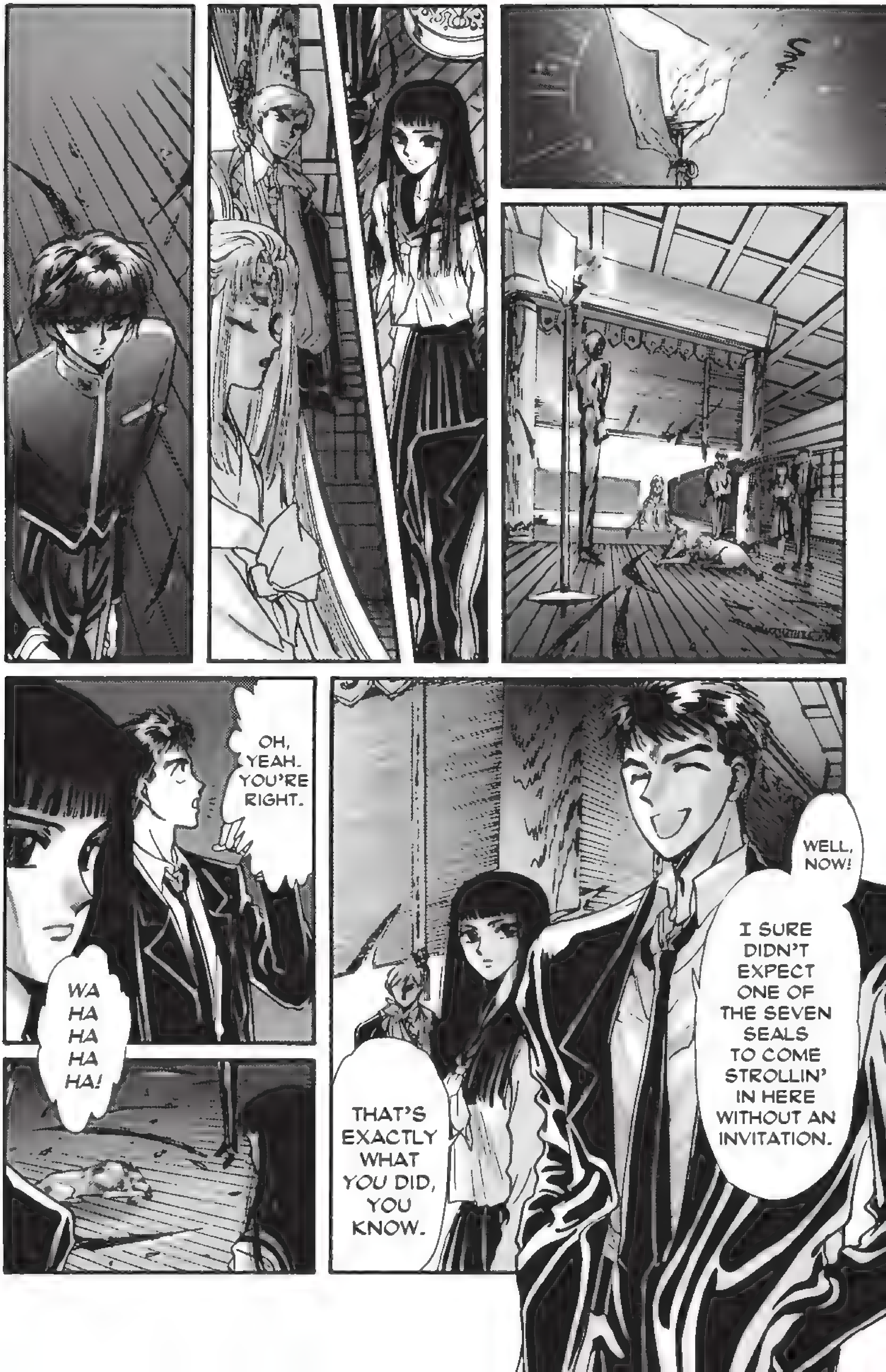
X

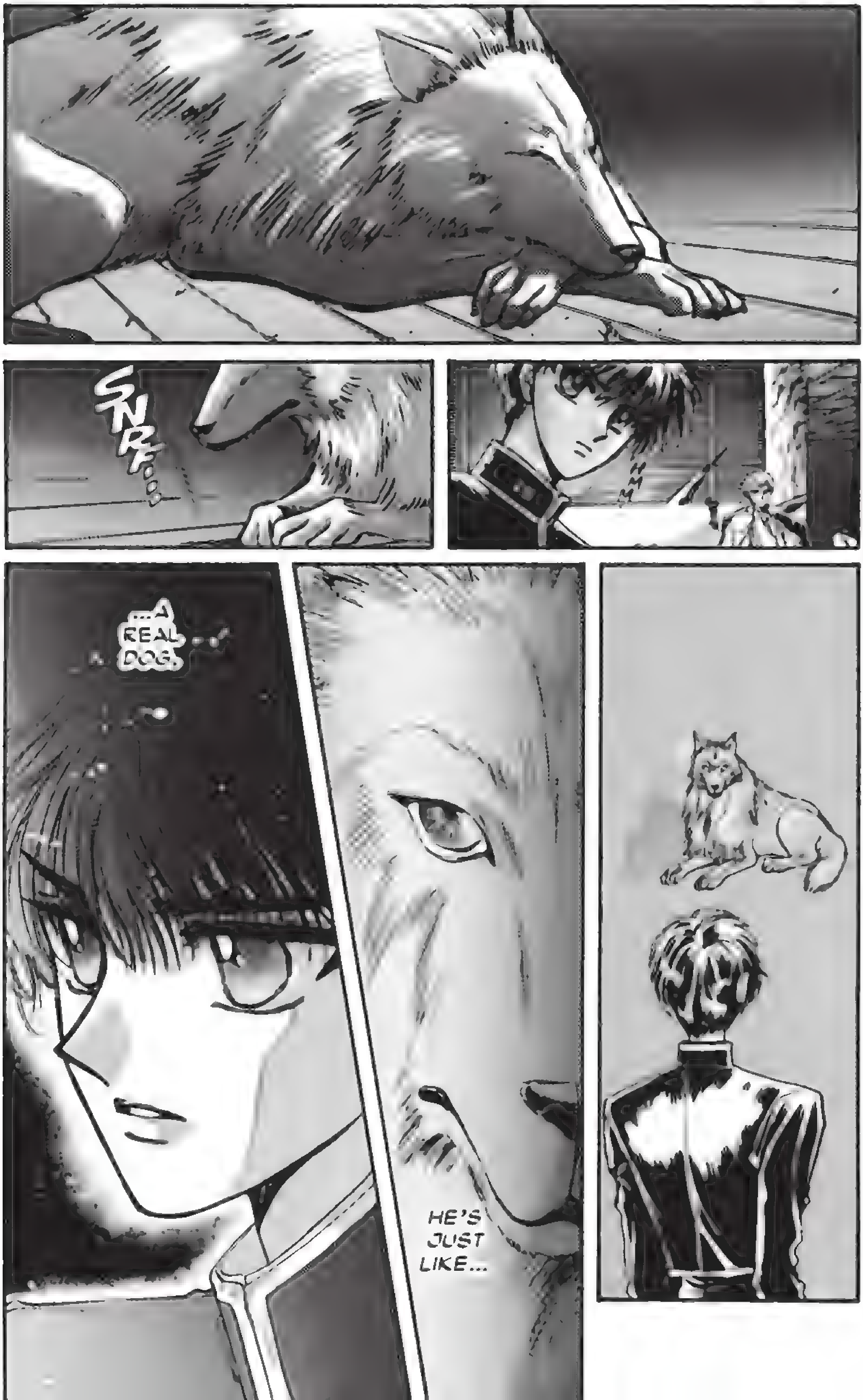


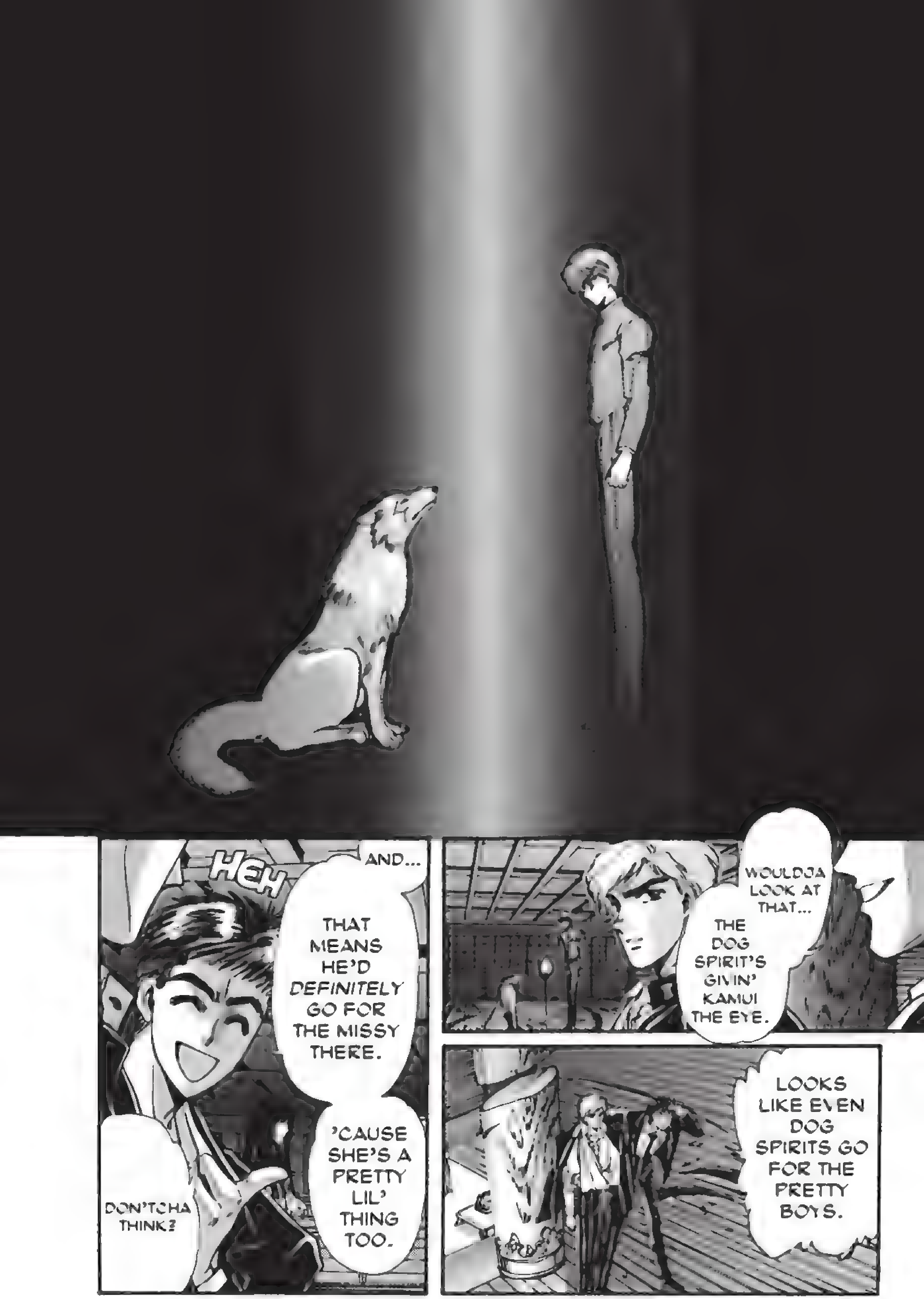
5 THE HIEROPHANT

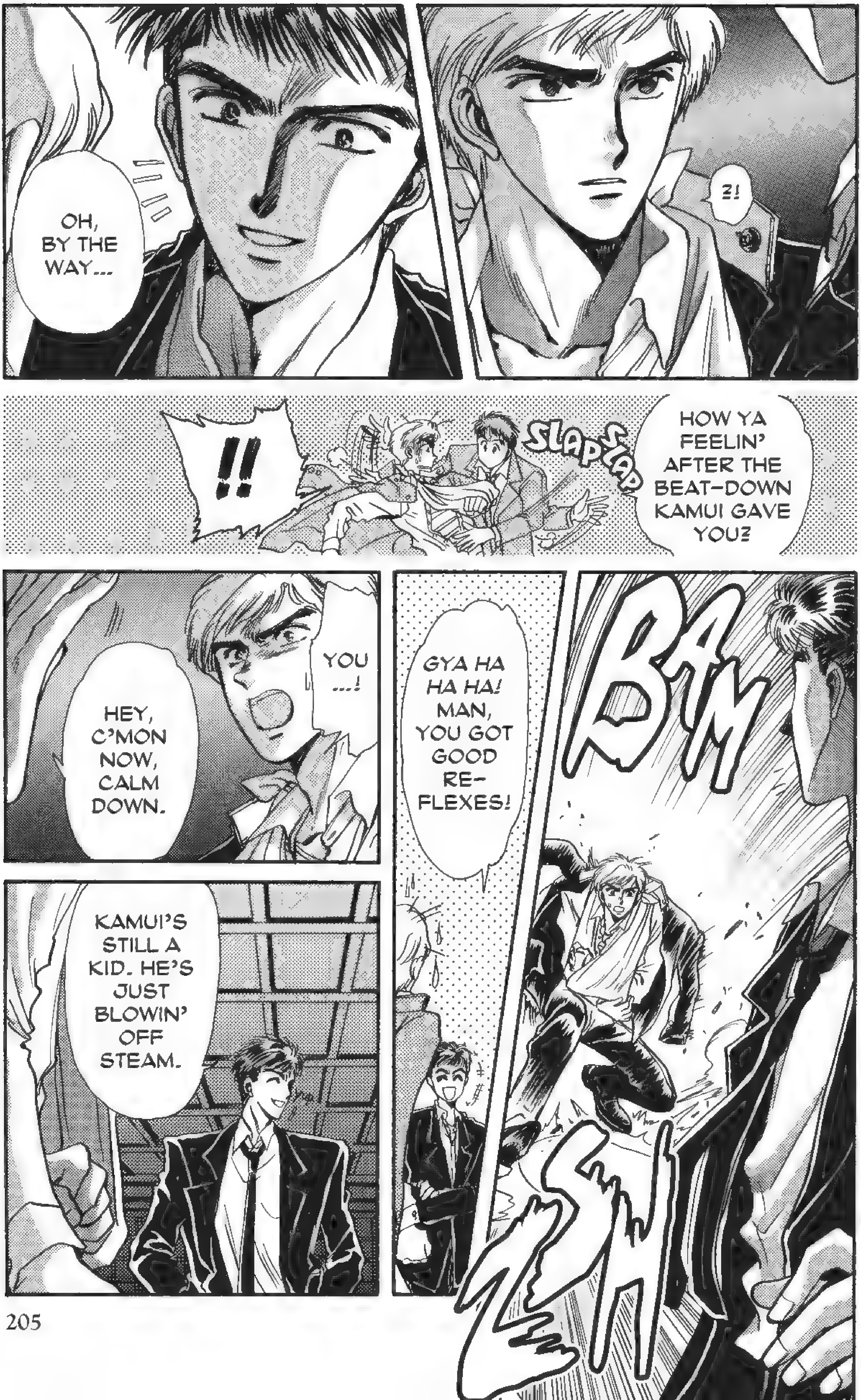
ו

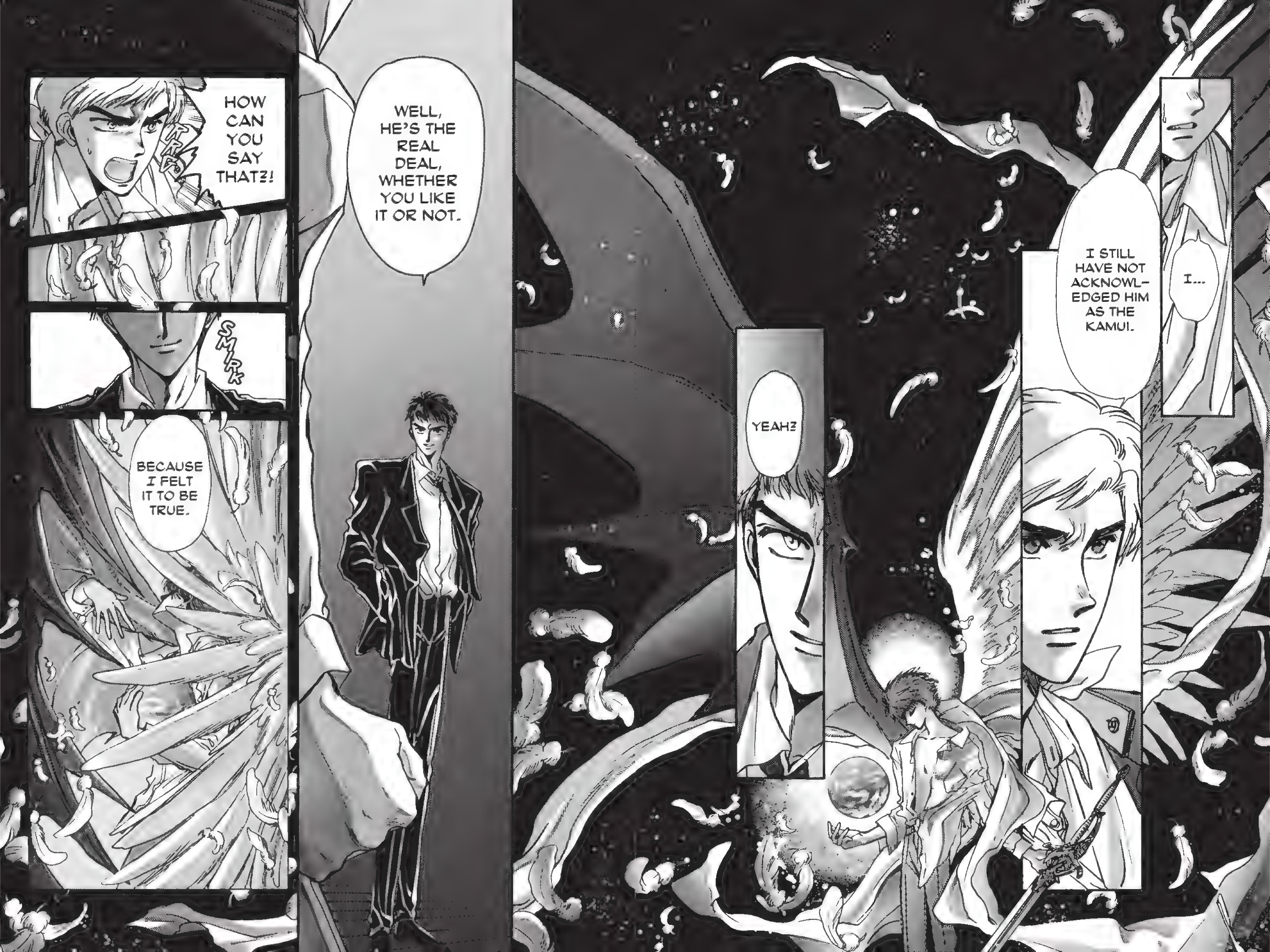

UNTIL THE END OF THE WORLD...

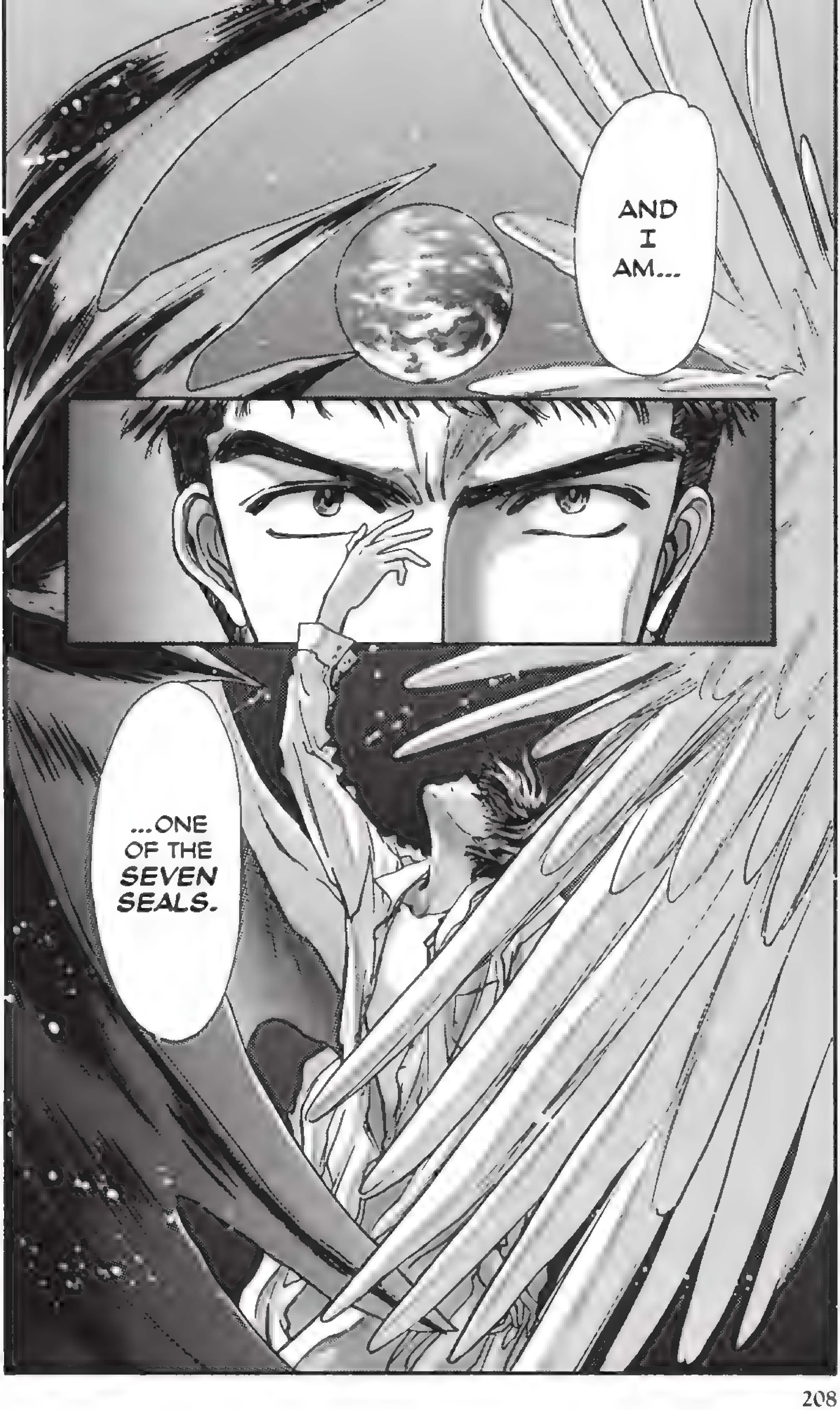

WELL, NOW!
I SURE DIDN'T EXPECT ONE OF THE SEVEN SEALS TO COME STROLLIN' IN HERE WITHOUT AN INVITATION.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT *YOU* DID, YOU KNOW.
OH, YEAH. YOU'RE RIGHT.
WA HA HA HA HA!

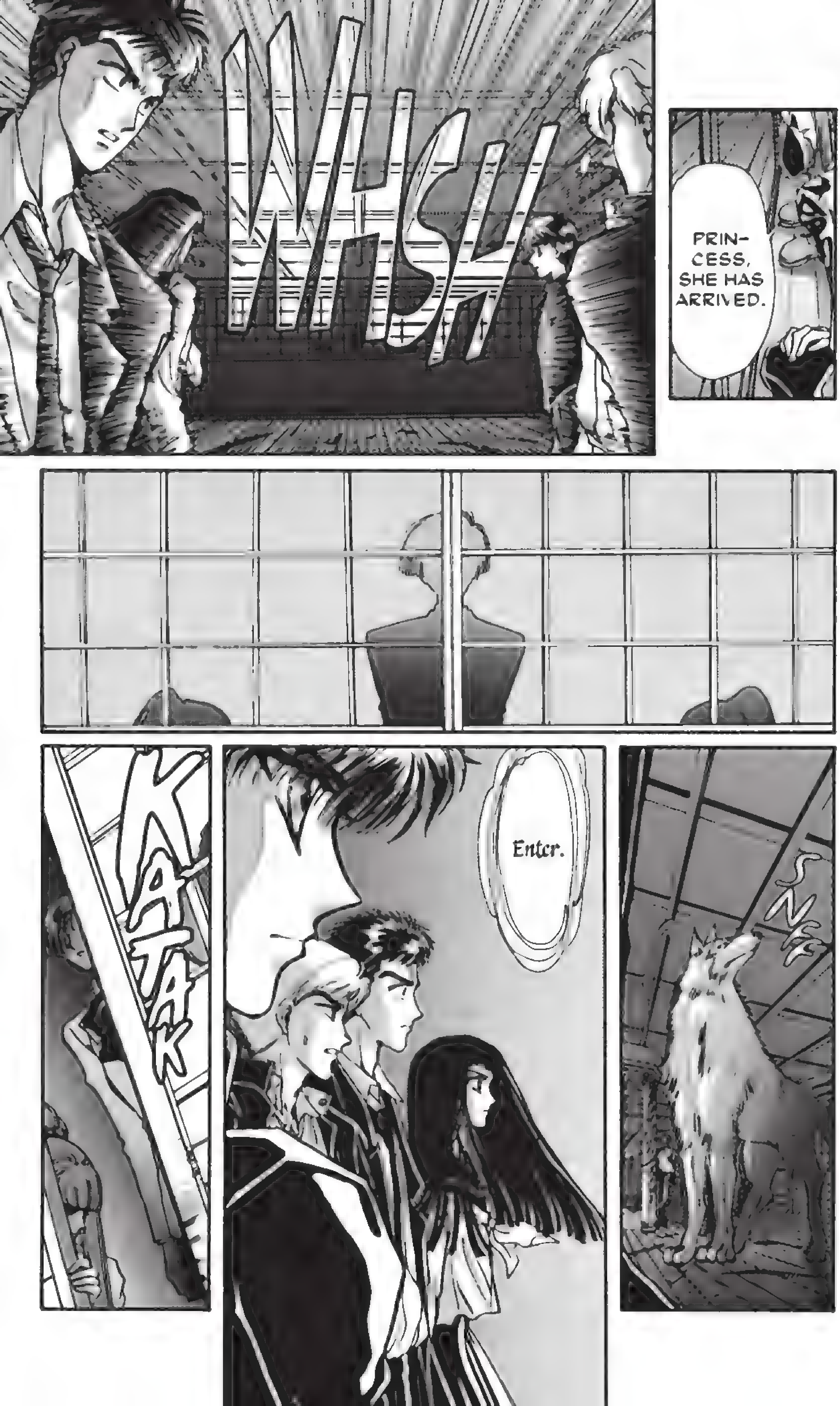

HMM
SNRF...
HE'S JUST LIKE...
...A REAL DOG.

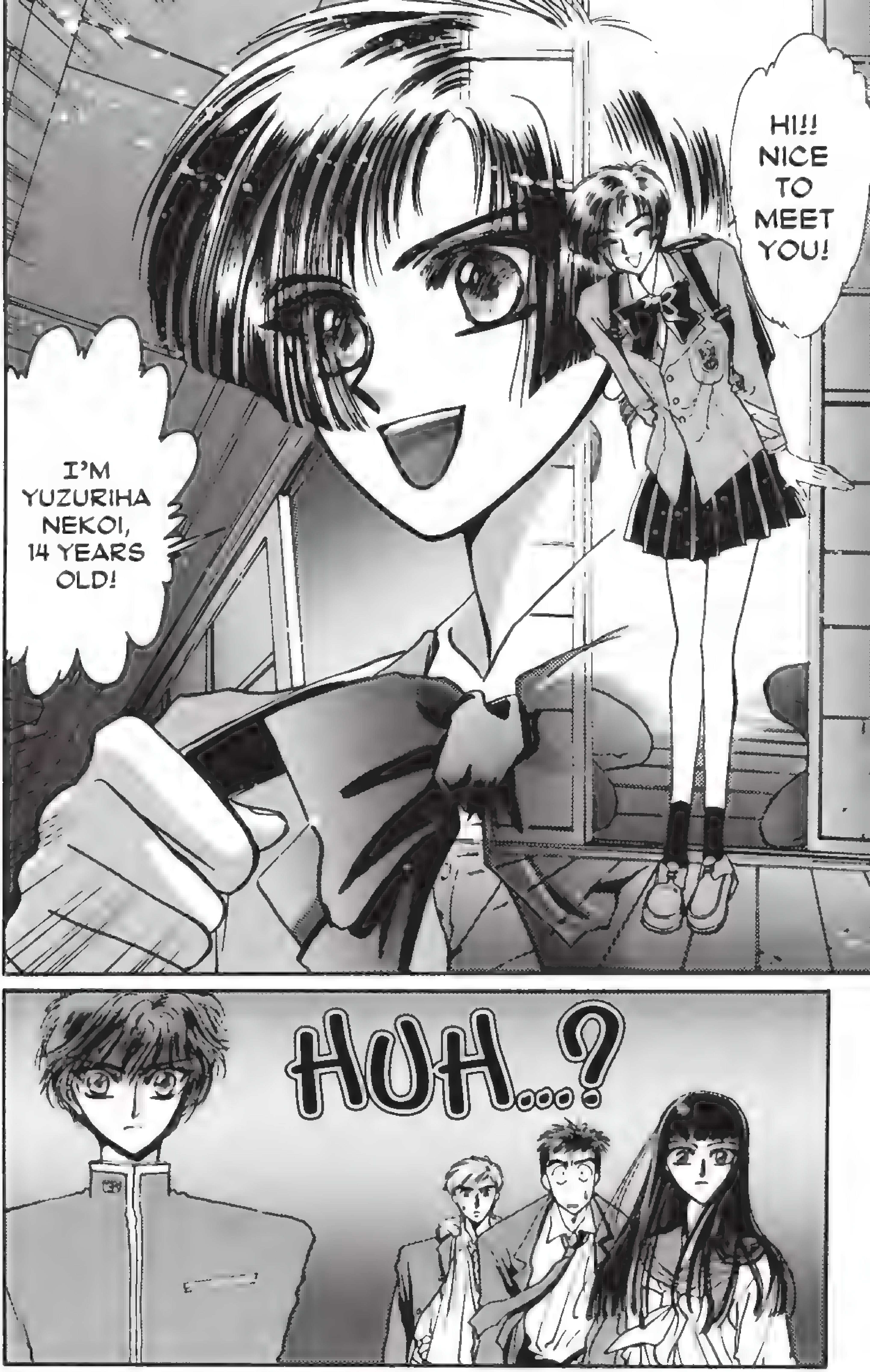

WOULDJA LOOK AT THAT...
THE DOG SPIRIT'S GIVIN' KAMUI THE EYE.
LOOKS LIKE EVEN DOG SPIRITS GO FOR THE PRETTY BOYS.
HEH
AND...
THAT MEANS HE'D *DEFINITELY* GO FOR THE MISSY THERE.
'CAUSE SHE'S A PRETTY LIL' THING TOO.
DON'TCHA THINK?

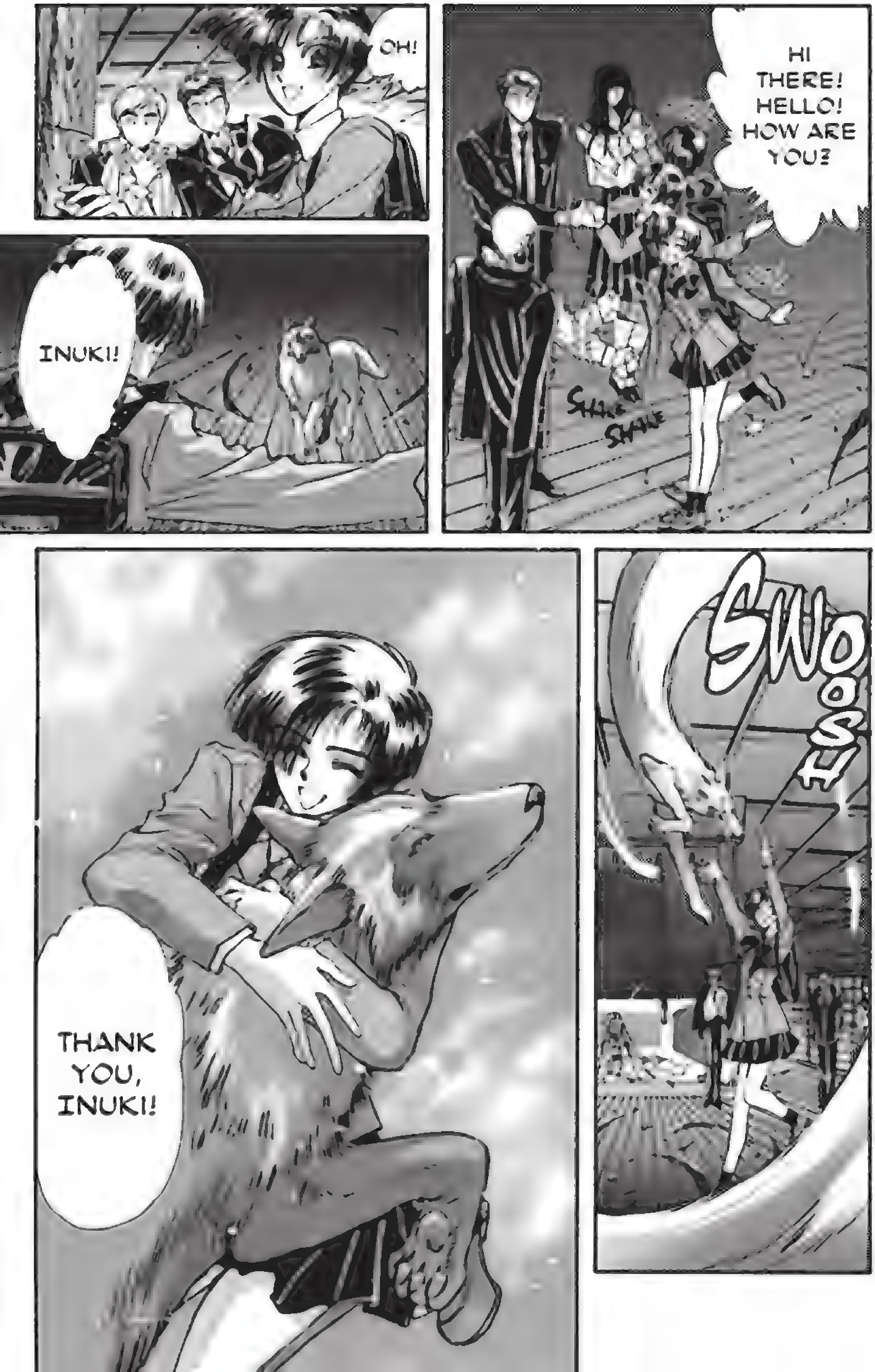

OH, BY THE WAY...
?!
HOW YA FEELIN' AFTER THE BEAT-DOWN KAMUI GAVE YOU?
SLAP SLAP
!!
YOU ...!
HEY, C'MON NOW, CALM DOWN.
KAMUI'S STILL A KID. HE'S JUST BLOWIN' OFF STEAM.
BAM
GYA HA HA HA! MAN, YOU GOT GOOD RE-FLEXES!
SWSH

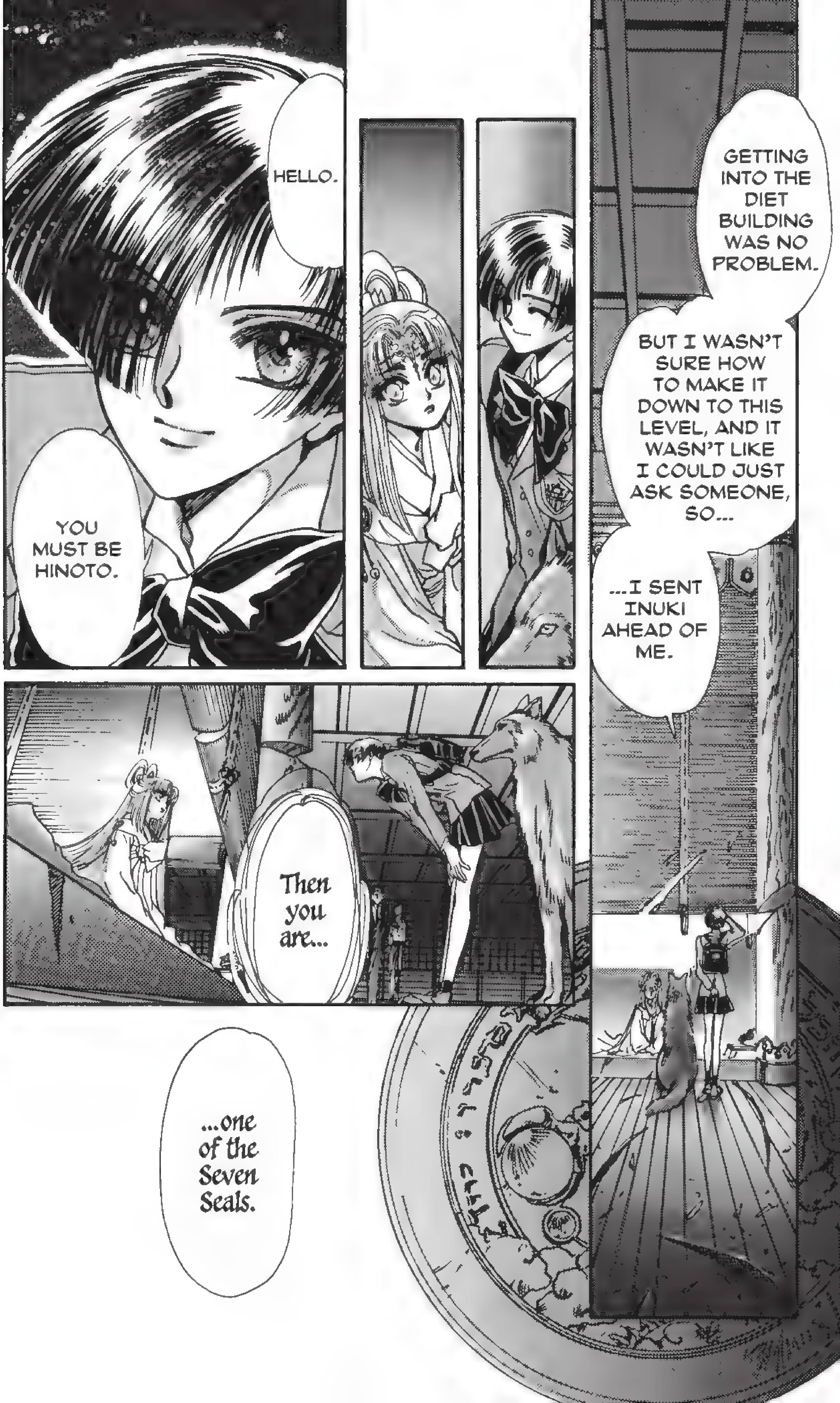

I...
I STILL HAVE NOT ACKNOWLEDGED HIM AS THE KAMUI.
YEAH?
WELL, HE'S THE REAL DEAL, WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT.
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?!
SMIRK
BECAUSE I FELT IT TO BE TRUE.

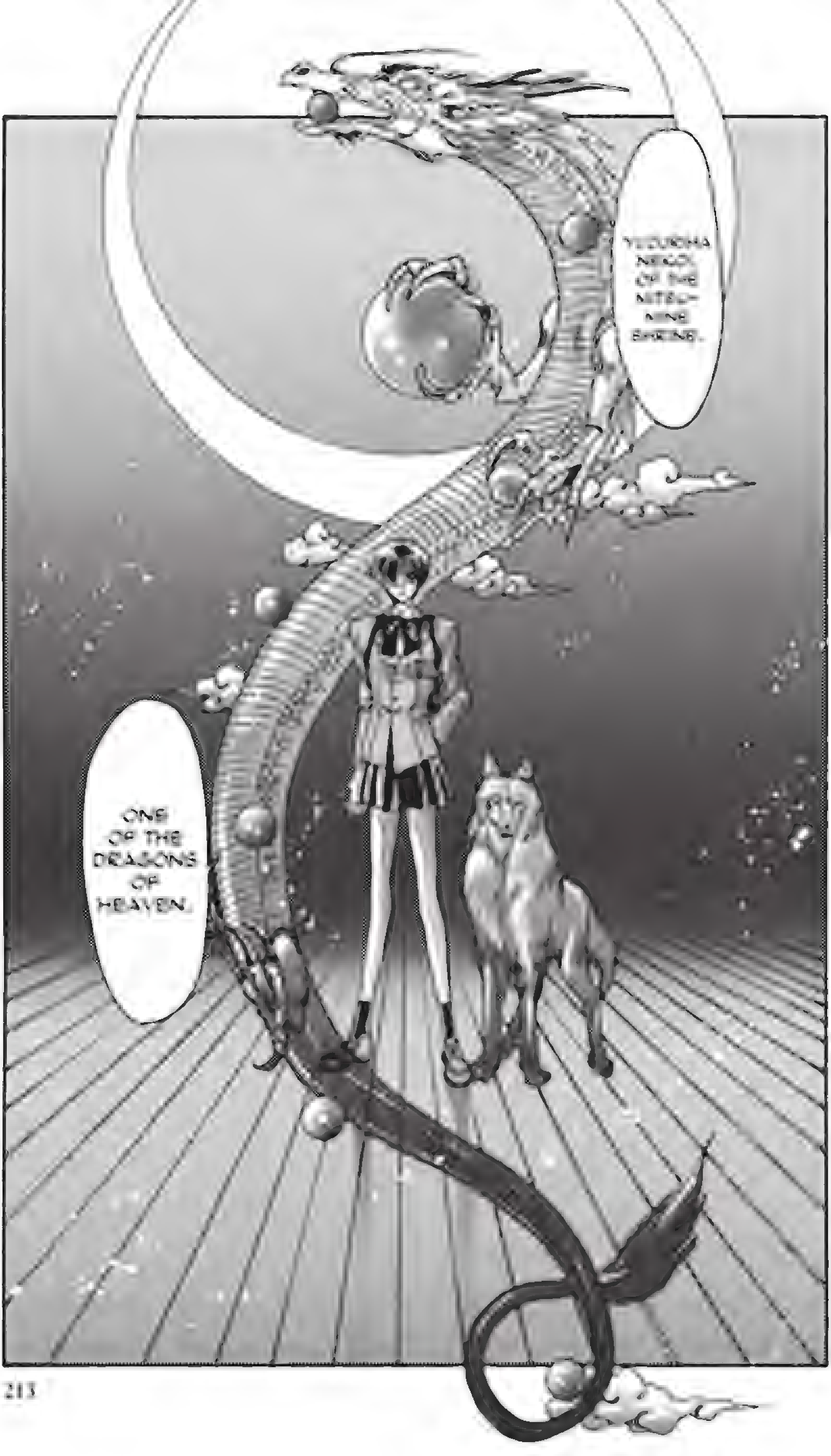

AND I AM...
...ONE OF THE *SEVEN SEALS.*

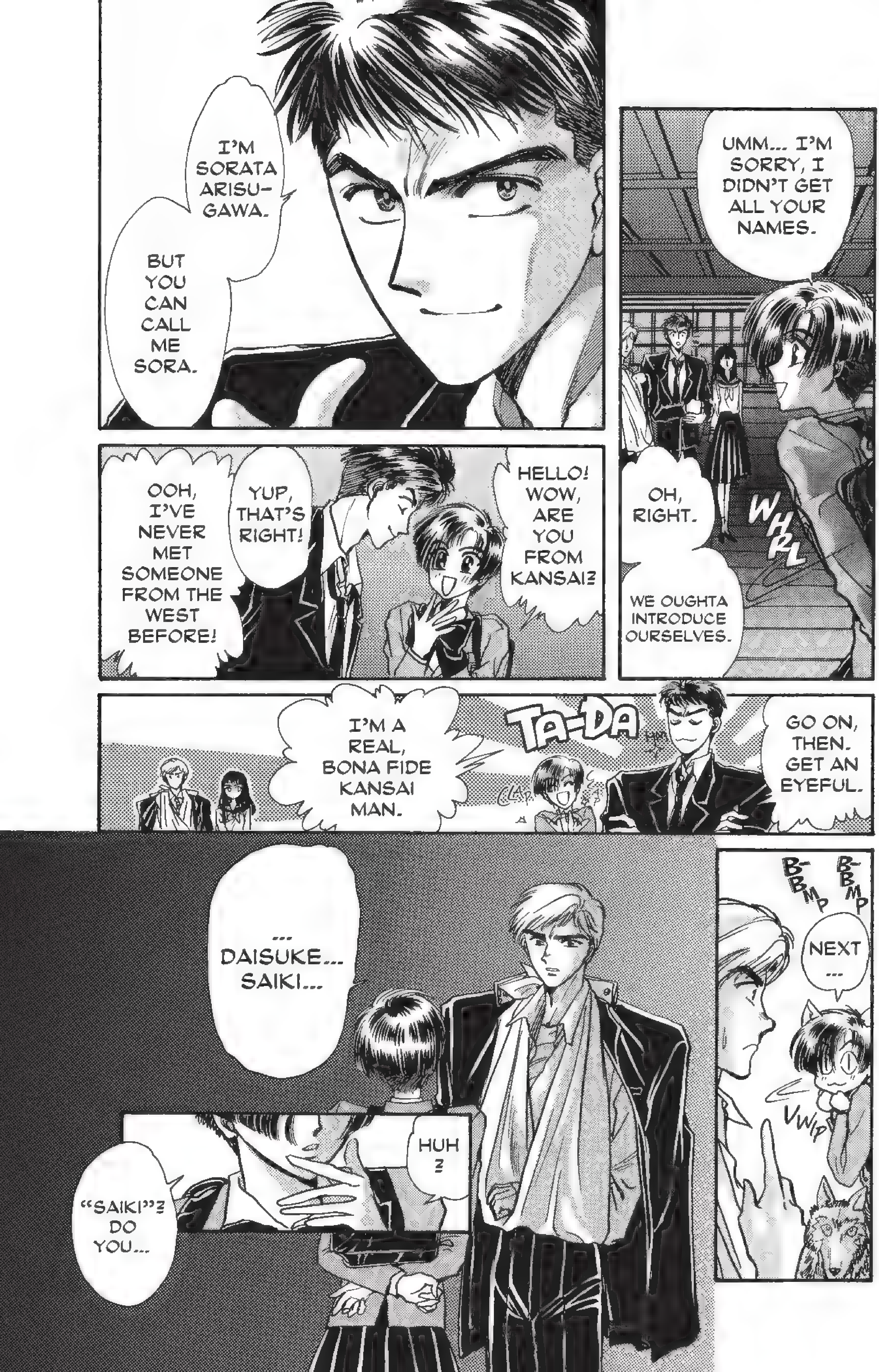

PRINCESS, SHE HAS ARRIVED.
WHSH
SNFF
Enter.
KATAK

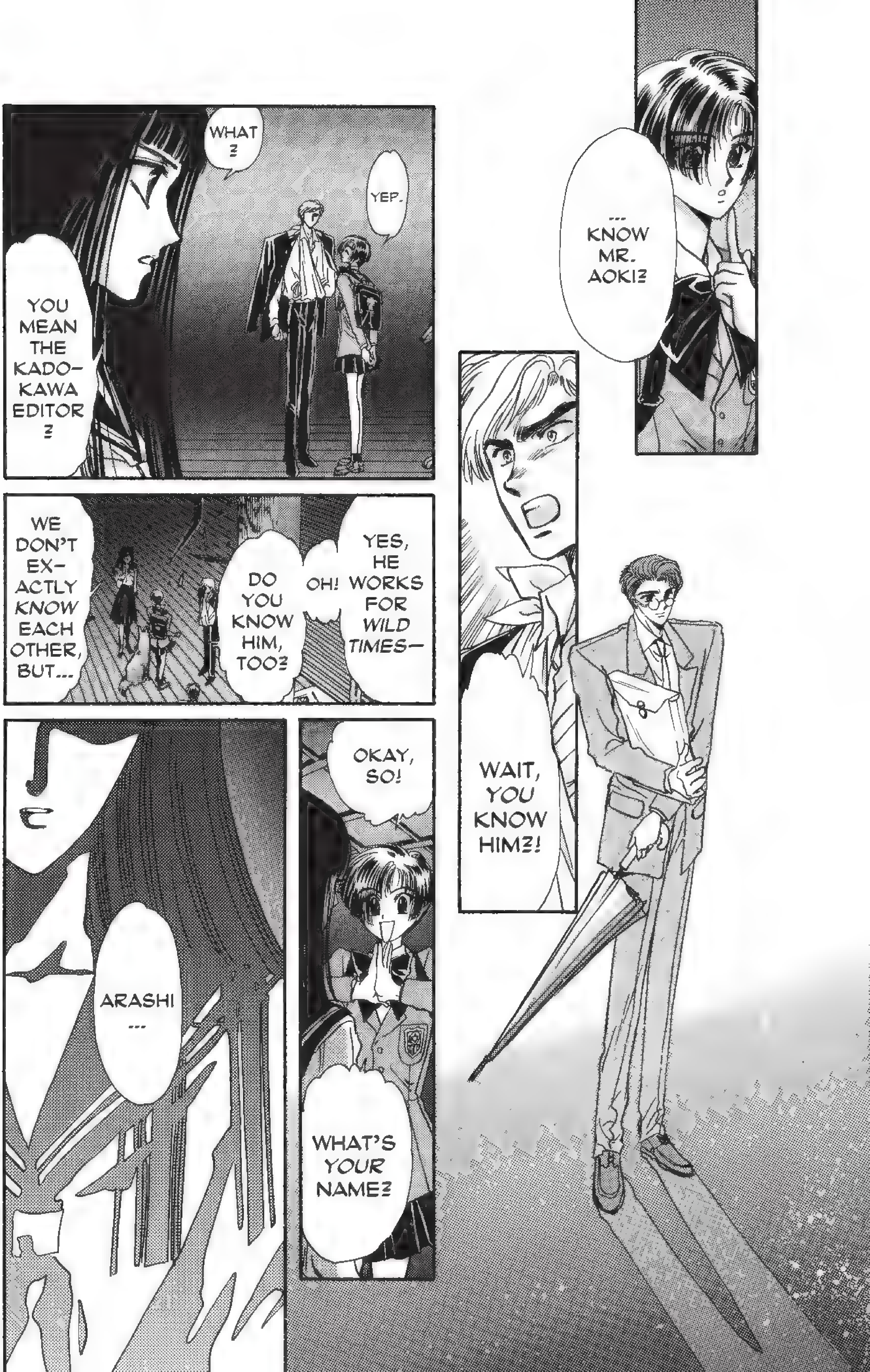

HI!! NICE TO MEET YOU!
I'M YUZURIHA NEKOI, 14 YEARS OLD!
HUH...?

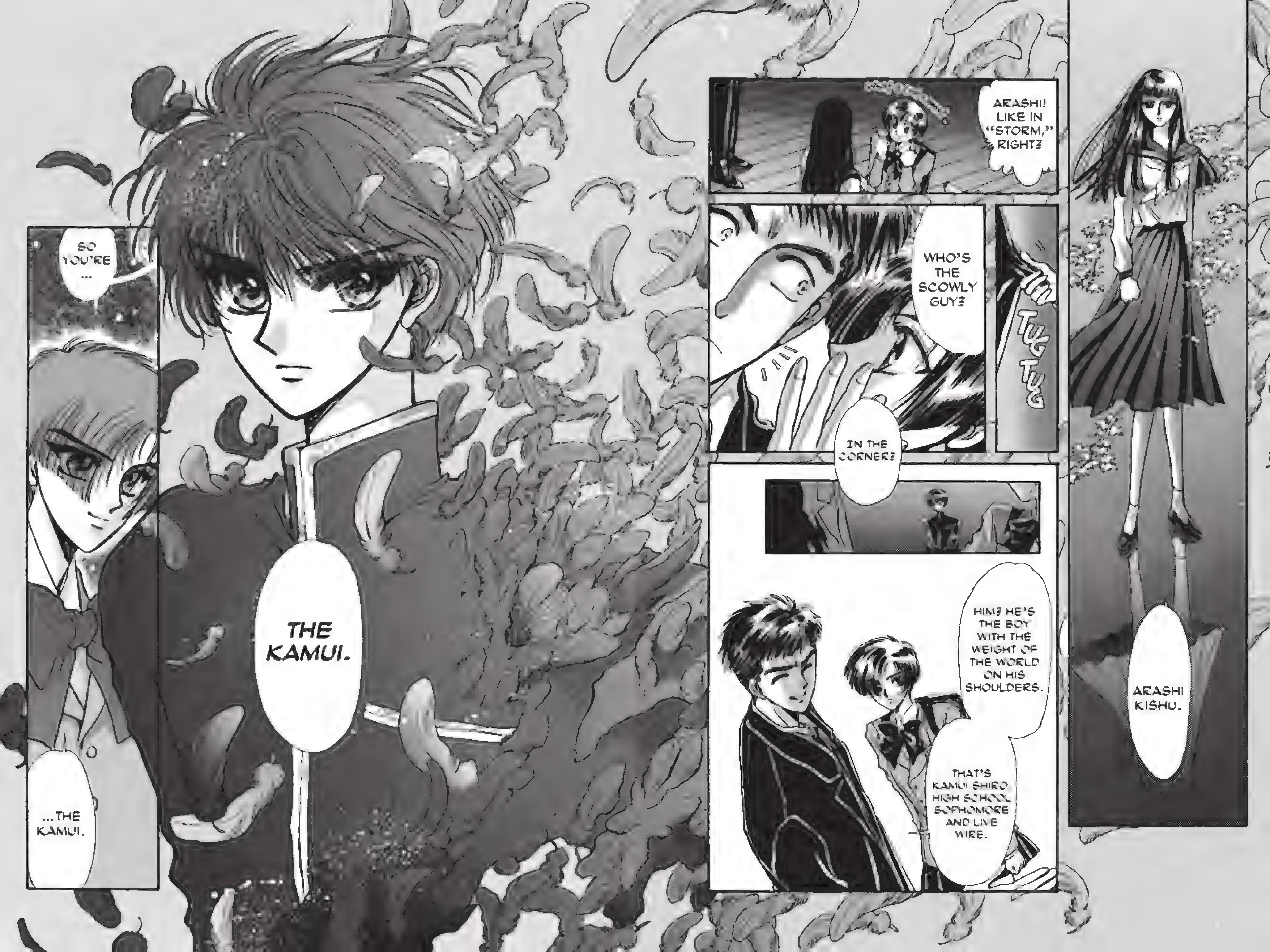

HI THERE! HELLO! HOW ARE YOU?
SHAKE SHAKE
OH!
INUKI!
SWOOSH
THANK YOU, INUKI!

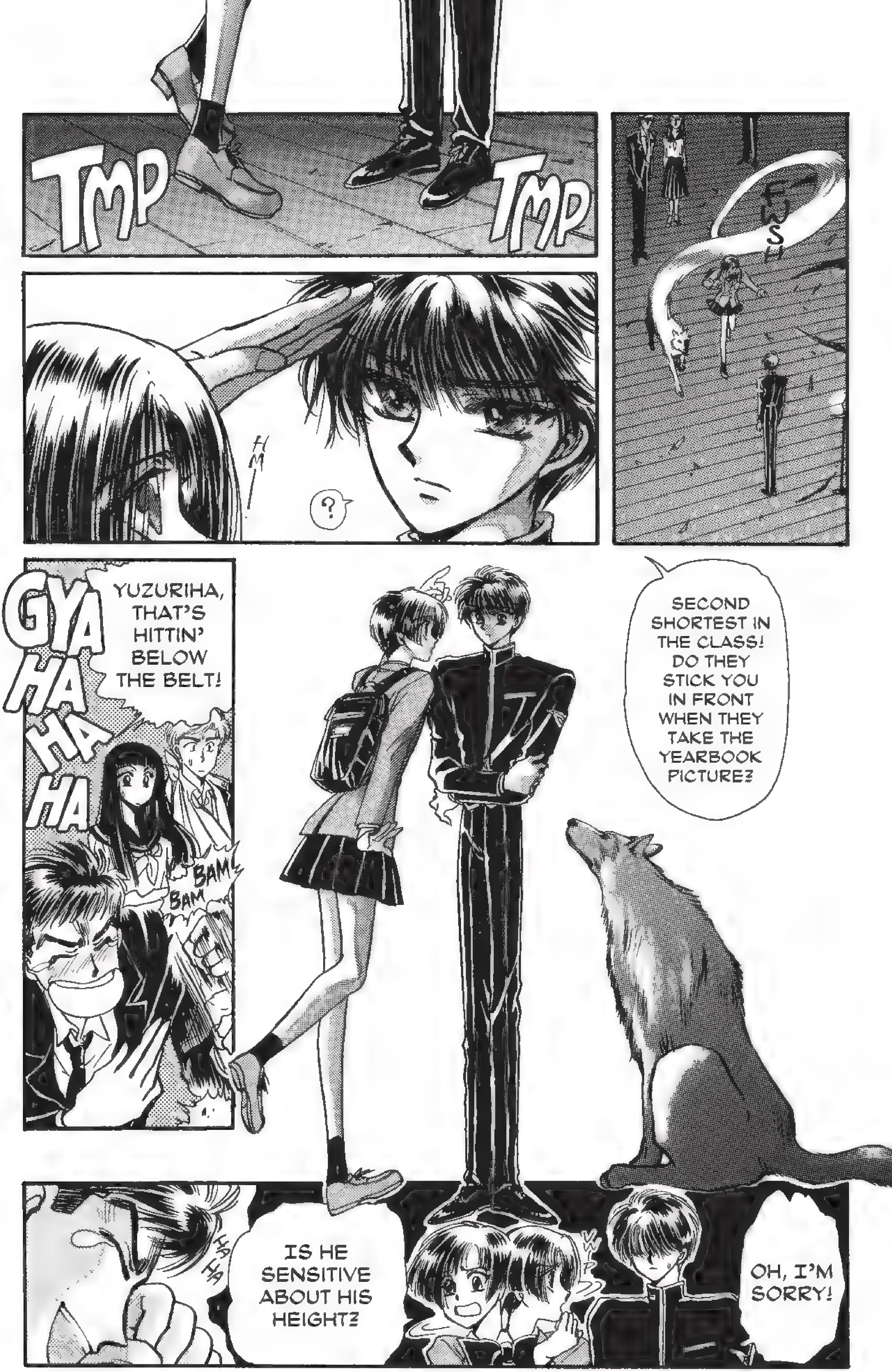

GETTING INTO THE DIET BUILDING WAS NO PROBLEM.
BUT I WASN'T SURE HOW TO MAKE IT DOWN TO THIS LEVEL, AND IT WASN'T LIKE I COULD JUST ASK SOMEONE, SO...
...I SENT INUKI AHEAD OF ME.
HELLO.
YOU MUST BE HINOTO.
Then you are...
...one of the Seven Seals.

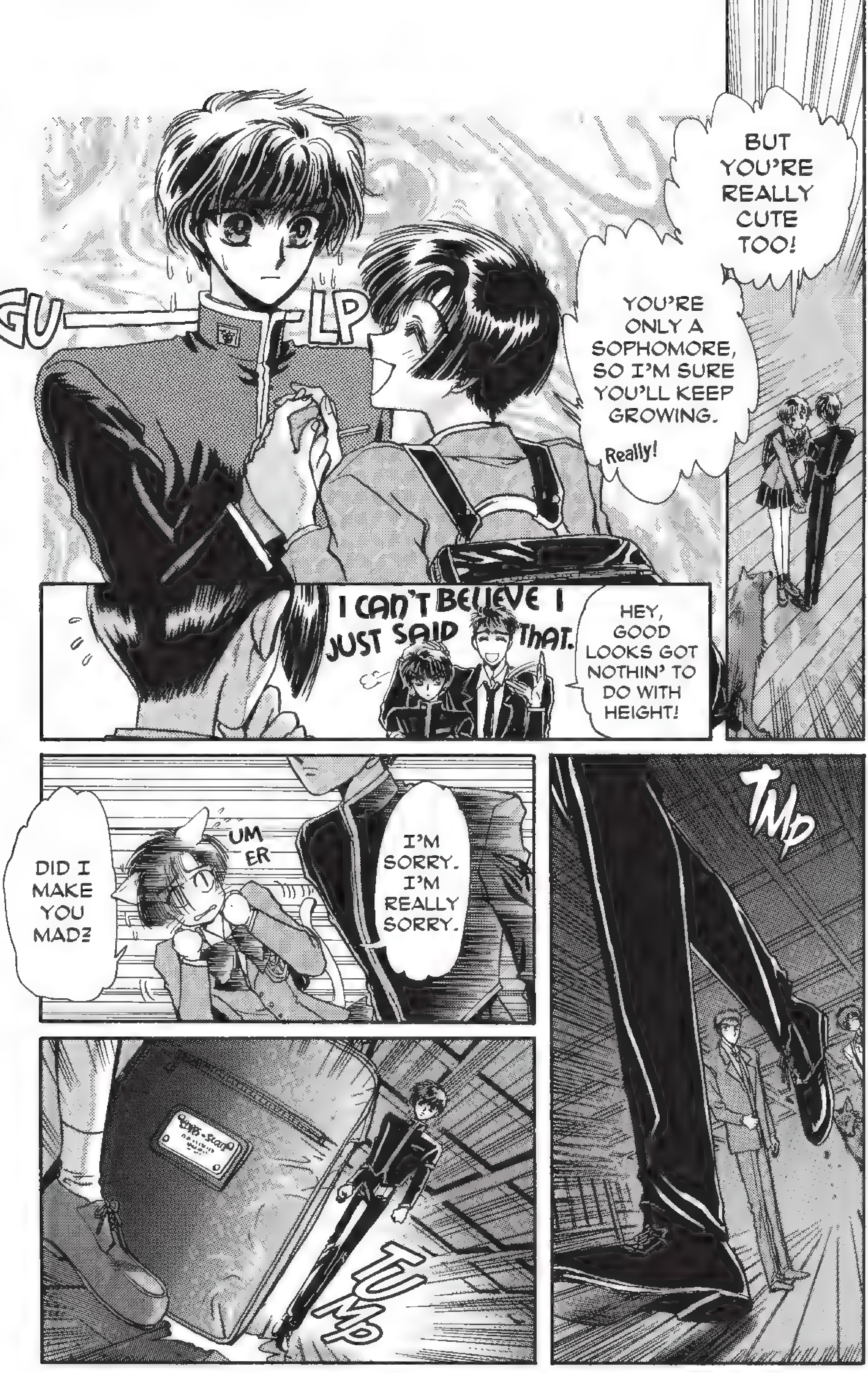

YUZURIHA NEKOI, OF THE NITSU-NINE SHRINE.
ONE OF THE DRAGONS OF HEAVEN.

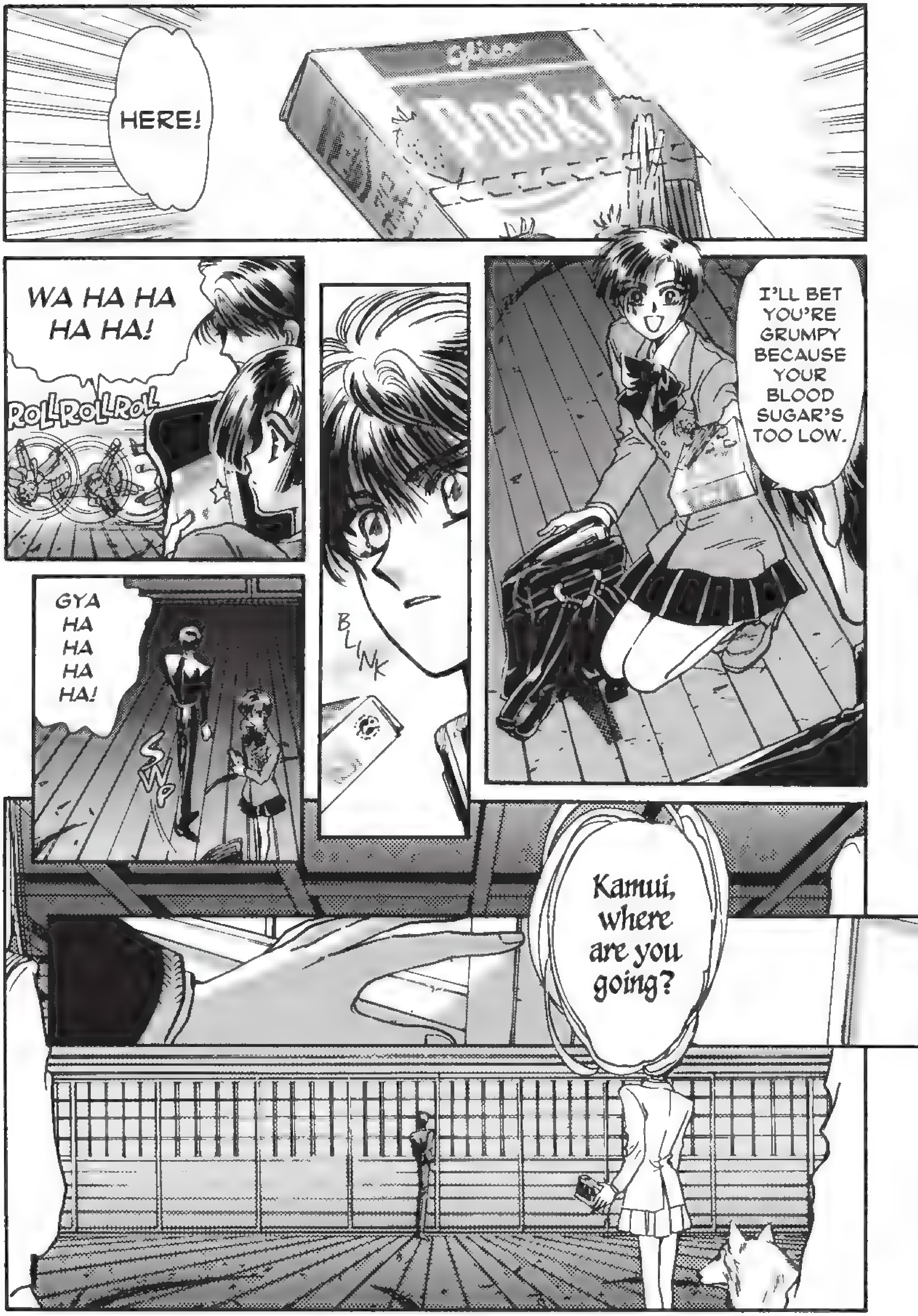

UMM... I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T GET ALL YOUR NAMES.
WHRL
OH, RIGHT.
WE OUGHTA INTRODUCE OURSELVES.
I'M SORATA ARISUGAWA.
BUT YOU CAN CALL ME SORA.
HELLO! WOW, ARE YOU FROM KANSAI?
YUP, THAT'S RIGHT!
OOH, I'VE NEVER MET SOMEONE FROM THE WEST BEFORE!
GO ON, THEN. GET AN EYEFUL.
HM
TA-DA
CLAP
I'M A REAL, BONA FIDE KANSAI MAN.
B-BMP
B-BMP
NEXT...
VWIP
... DAISUKE... SAIKI...
HUH?
"SAIKI"? DO YOU...

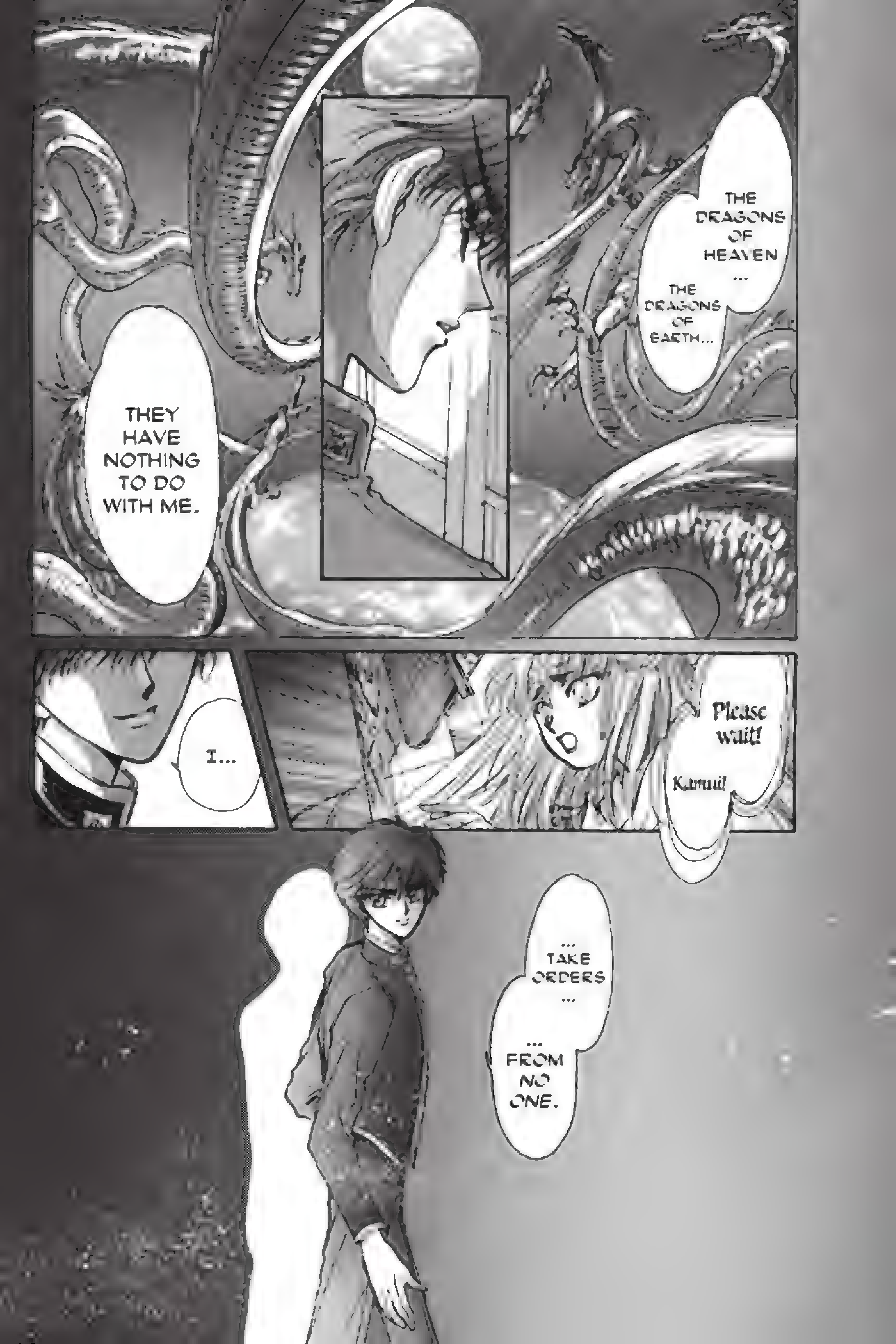

...KNOW MR. AOKI?
WAIT, *YOU* KNOW HIM?!
WHAT?
YEP.
YOU MEAN THE KADOKAWA EDITOR?
YES, HE WORKS FOR *WILD TIMES*—
OH!
DO YOU KNOW HIM, TOO?
WE DON'T EXACTLY *KNOW* EACH OTHER, BUT...
OKAY, SO!
WHAT'S *YOUR* NAME?
ARASHI...

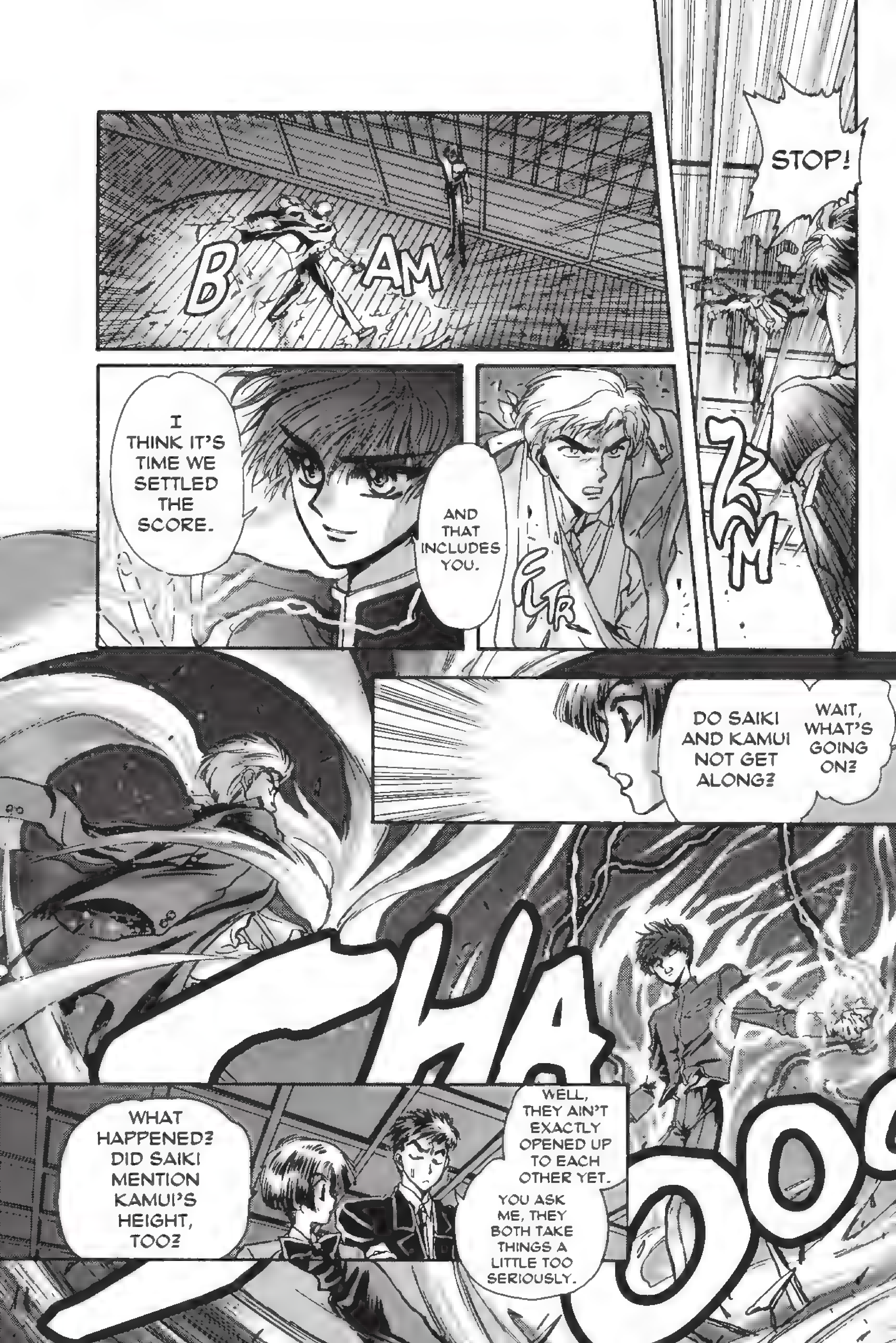

ARASHI KISHU.
ARASHI! LIKE IN "STORM," RIGHT?
TUG TUG
WHO'S THE SCOWLY GUY?
IN THE CORNER?
HIM? HE'S THE BOY WITH THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD ON HIS SHOULDERS.
THAT'S KAMUI SHIRO. HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORE AND LIVE WIRE.
THE KAMUI.
SO YOU'RE ...
...THE KAMUI.

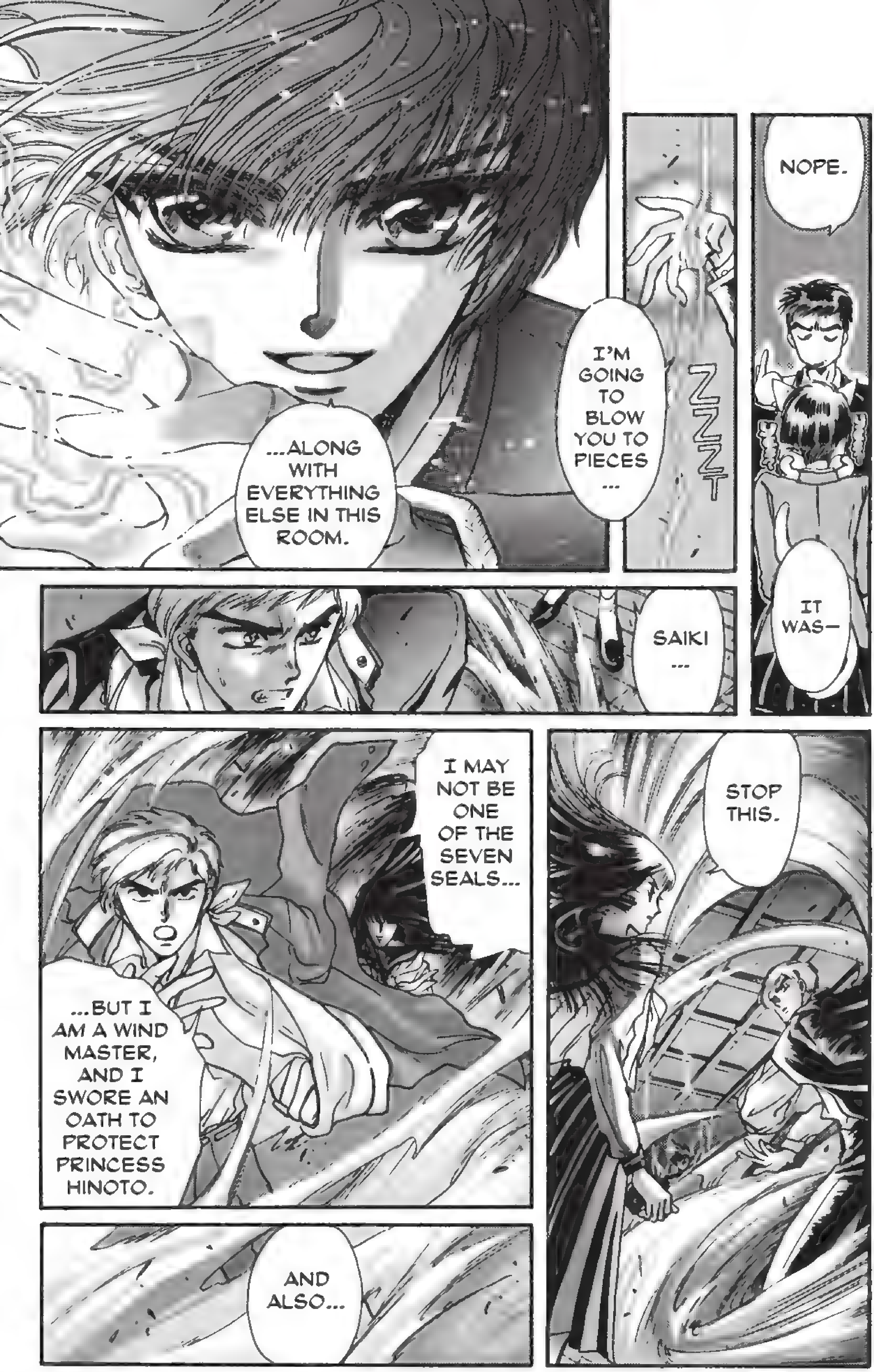

FWSH
TMP
TMP
HM
?
SECOND SHORTEST IN THE CLASS! DO THEY STICK YOU IN FRONT WHEN THEY TAKE THE YEARBOOK PICTURE?
YUZURIHA, THAT'S HITTIN' BELOW THE BELT!
GYA HA HA HA
BAM
BAM
OH, I'M SORRY!
WP
IS HE SENSITIVE ABOUT HIS HEIGHT?
HA HA

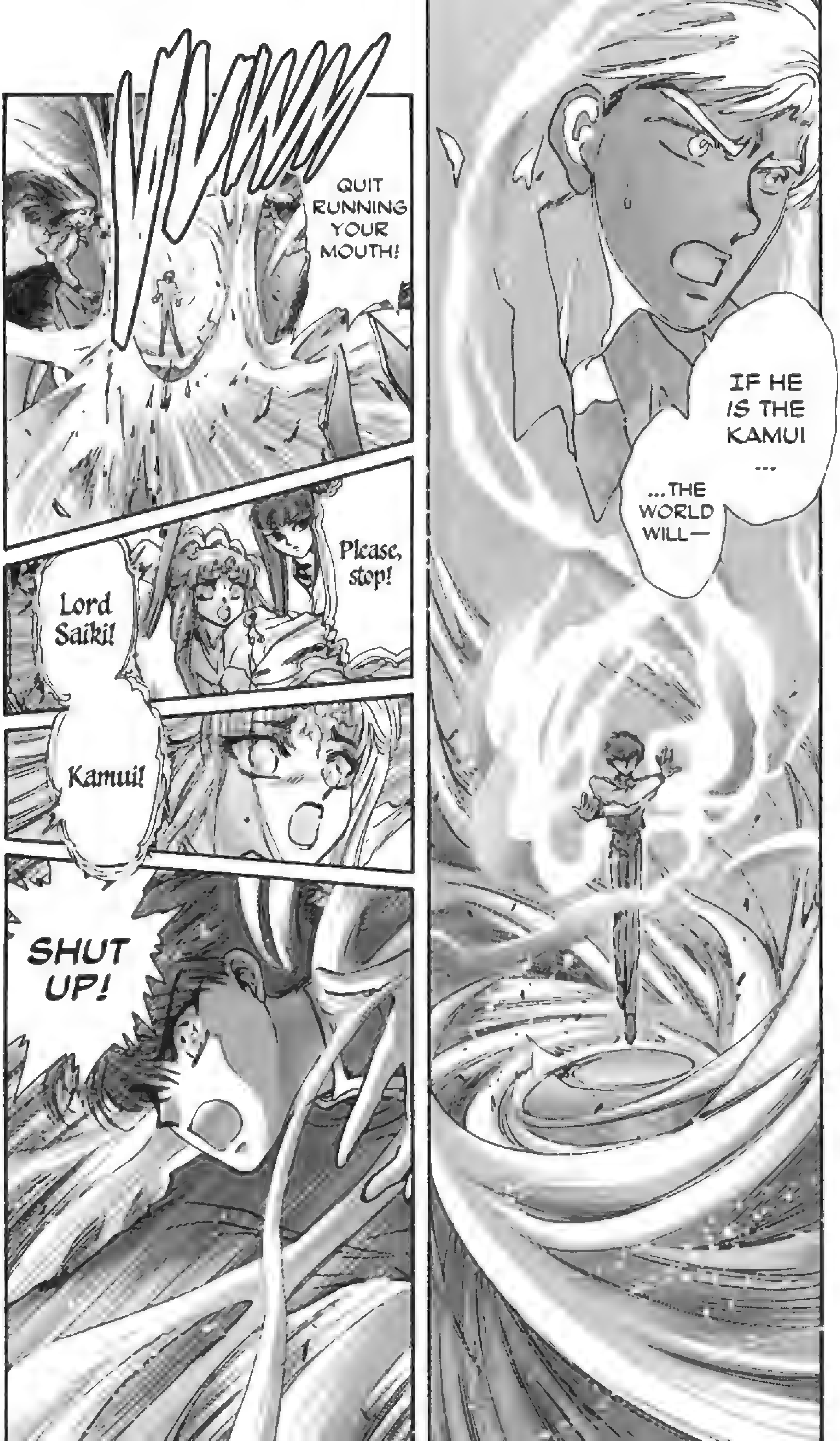

BUT YOU'RE REALLY CUTE TOO!
YOU'RE ONLY A SOPHOMORE, SO I'M SURE YOU'LL KEEP GROWING.
Really!
GU—LP
HEY, GOOD LOOKS GOT NOTHIN' TO DO WITH HEIGHT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I JUST SAID THAT.
TMP
I'M SORRY. I'M REALLY SORRY.
UM
ER
DID I MAKE YOU MAD?
TUMP

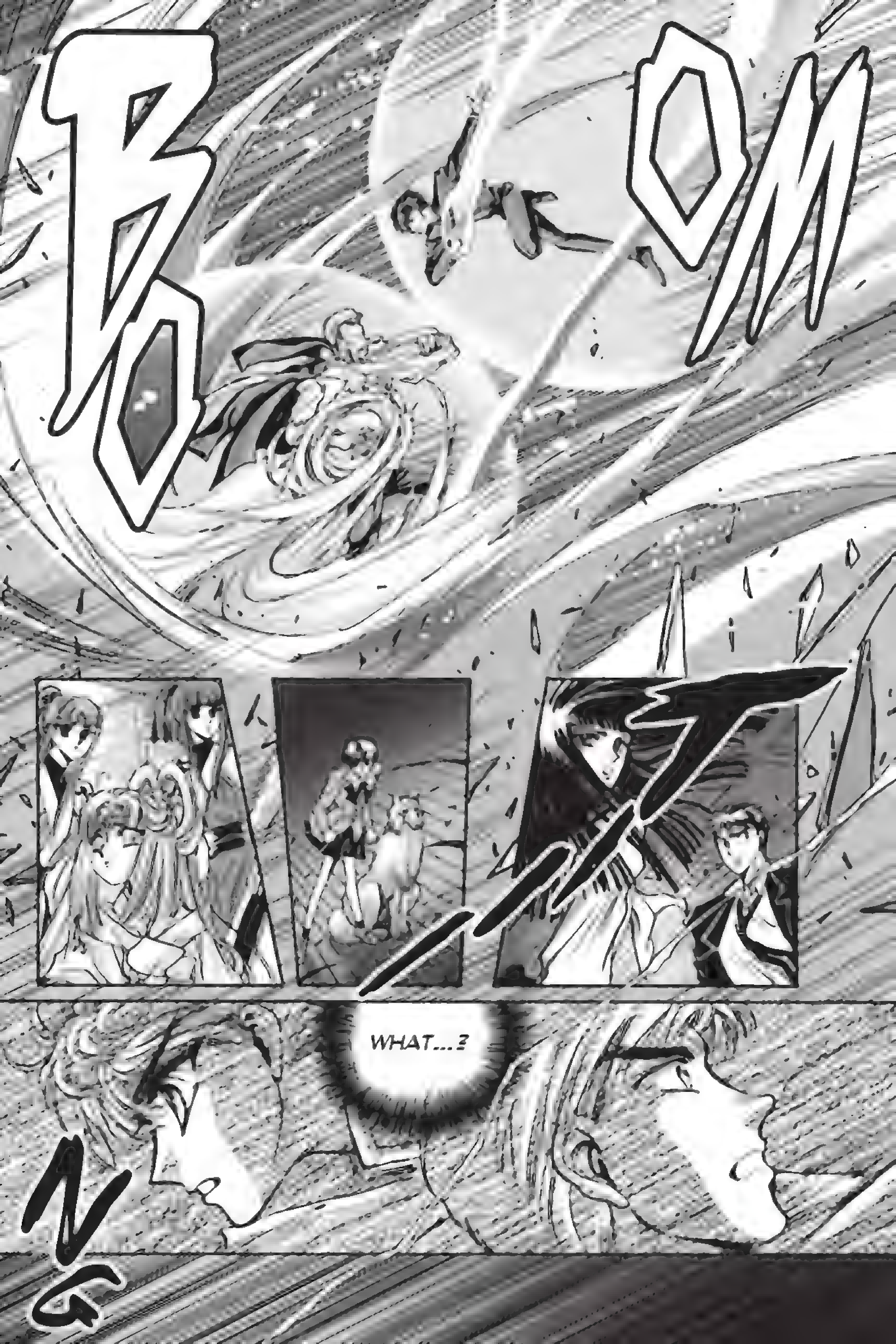

HERE!
Glico
Pocky
I'LL BET YOU'RE GRUMPY BECAUSE YOUR BLOOD SUGAR'S TOO LOW.
BLINK
WA HA HA HA HA!
ROLLROLLROLL
GYA HA HA HA HA!
SWIP
Kamui, where are you going?

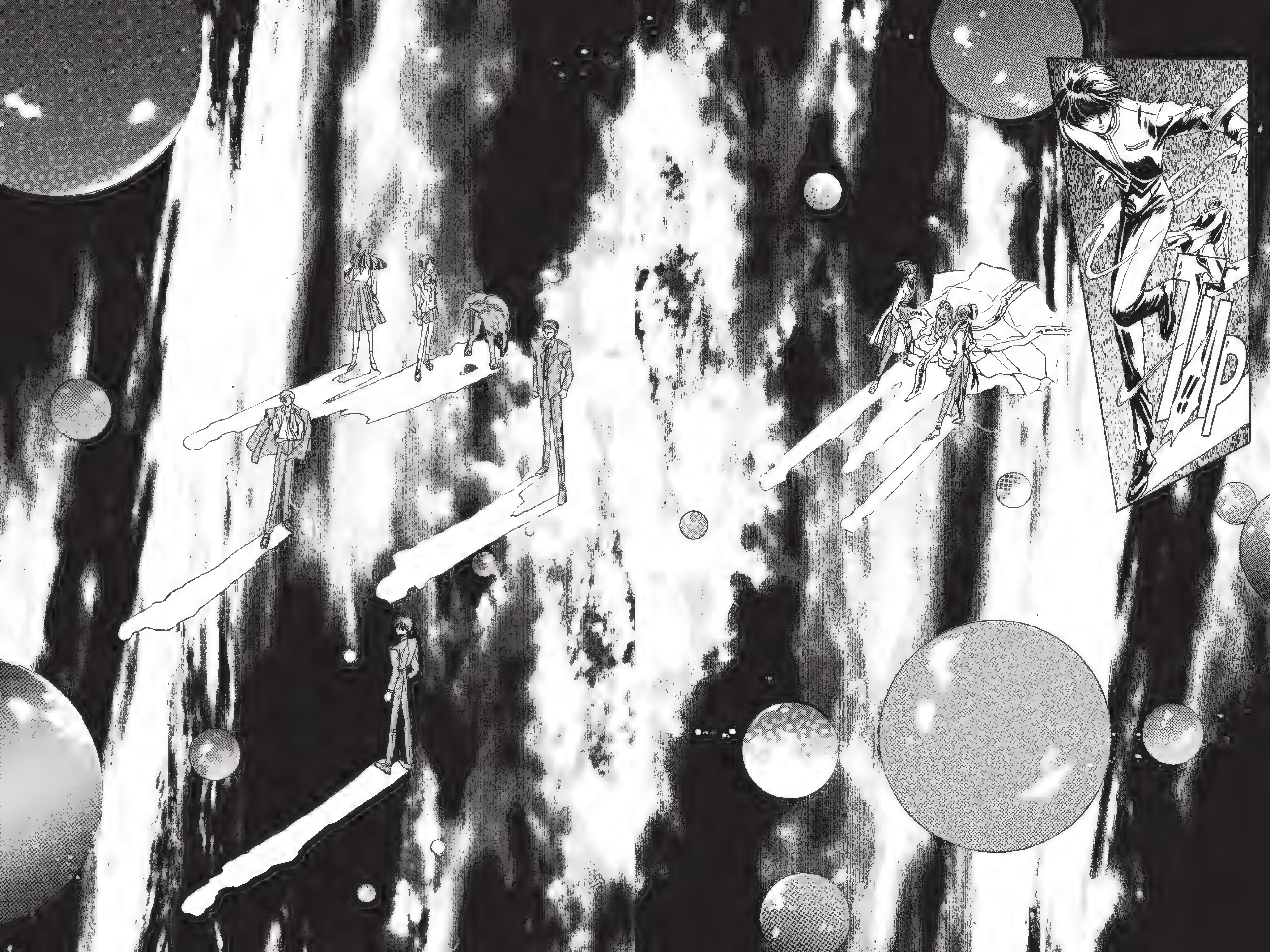

THE DRAGONS OF HEAVEN ... THE DRAGONS OF EARTH...
THEY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
Please wait! Kamui!
I...
... TAKE ORDERS ... ... FROM NO ONE.

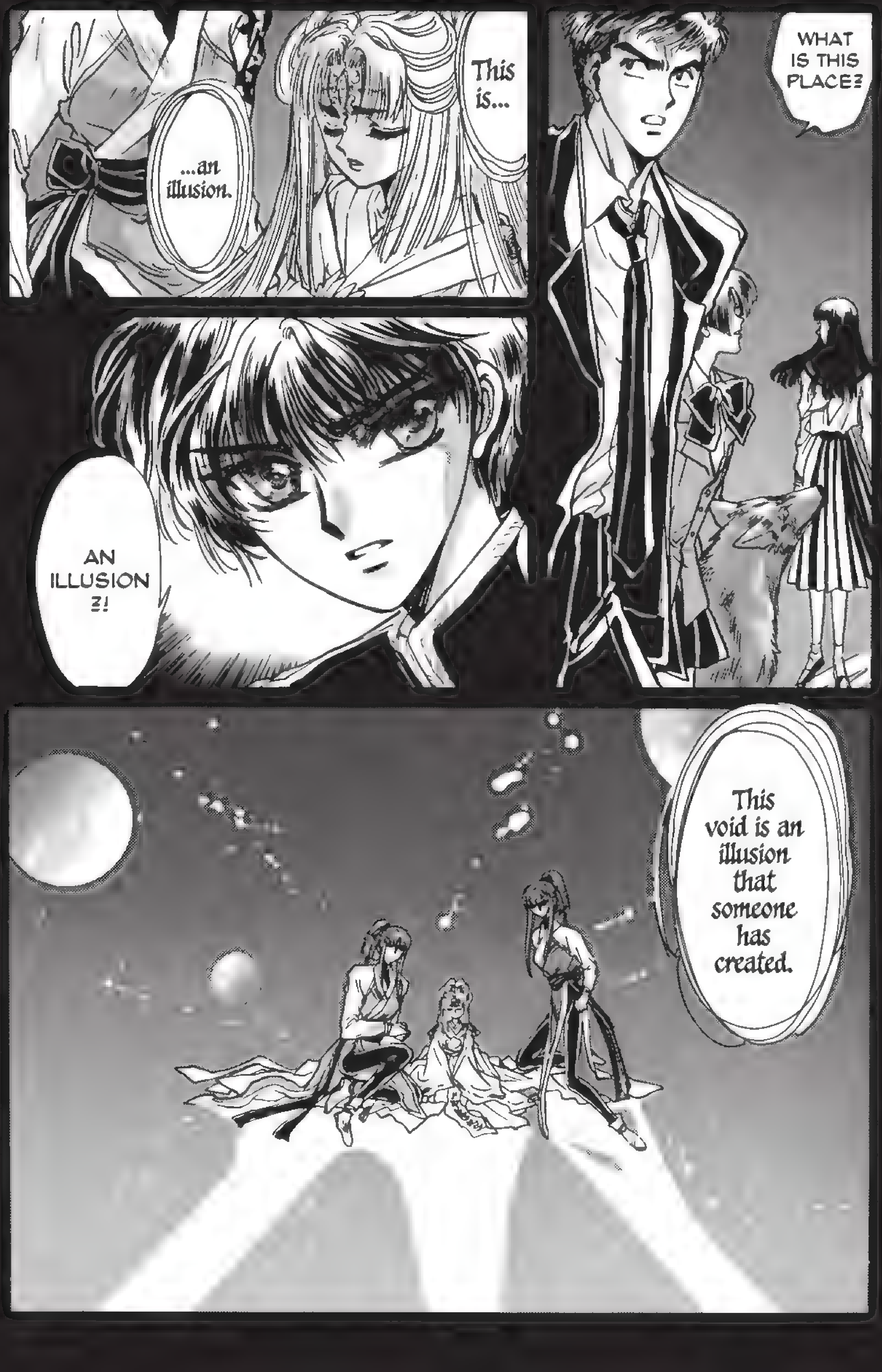

STOP!
ZZM
BAM
AND THAT INCLUDES YOU.
FLR
I THINK IT'S TIME WE SETTLED THE SCORE.
WAIT, WHAT'S GOING ON?
DO SAIKI AND KAMUI NOT GET ALONG?
KHAOOO
WELL, THEY AIN'T EXACTLY OPENED UP TO EACH OTHER YET.
YOU ASK ME, THEY BOTH TAKE THINGS A LITTLE TOO SERIOUSLY.
WHAT HAPPENED? DID SAIKI MENTION KAMUI'S HEIGHT, TOO?

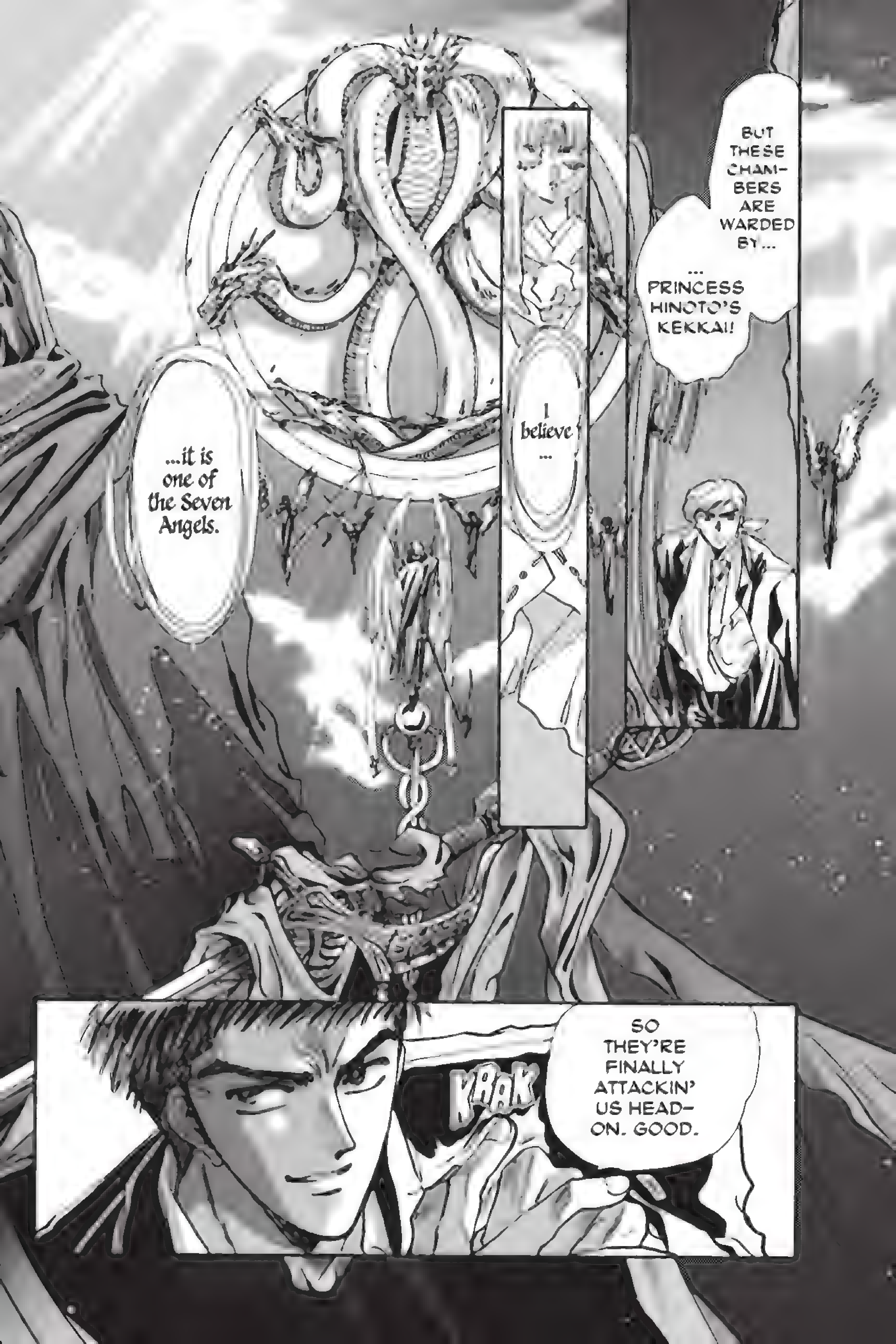

NOPE.
IT WAS—
I'M GOING TO BLOW YOU TO PIECES...
ZZZT
...ALONG WITH EVERYTHING ELSE IN THIS ROOM.
SAIKI...
STOP THIS.
I MAY NOT BE ONE OF THE SEVEN SEALS...
...BUT I AM A WIND MASTER, AND I SWORE AN OATH TO PROTECT PRINCESS HINOTO.
AND ALSO...

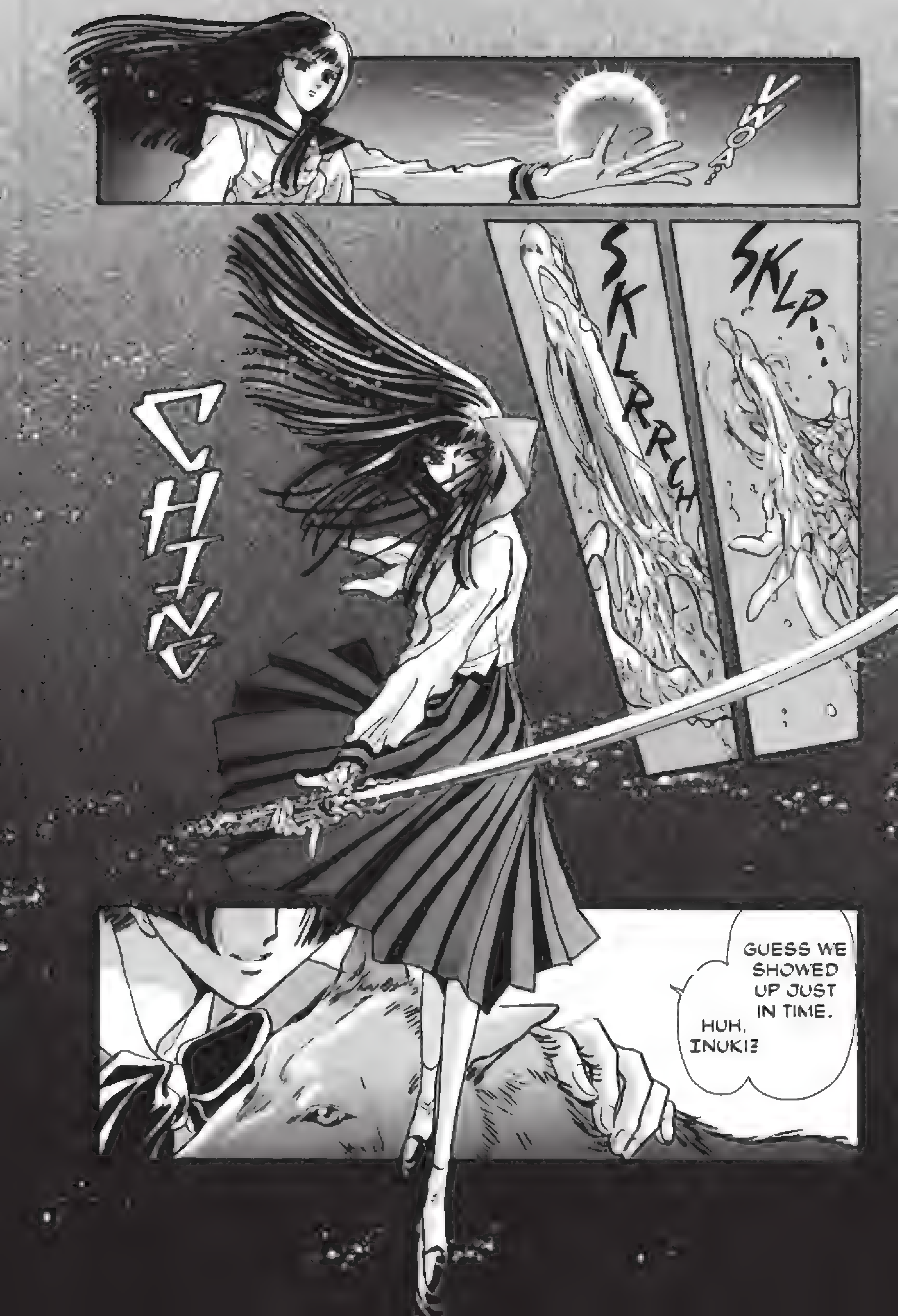

IF HE *IS* THE KAMUI ...
...THE WORLD WILL—
QUIT RUNNING YOUR MOUTH!
Please, stop!
Lord Saiki!
Kamui!
SHUT UP!

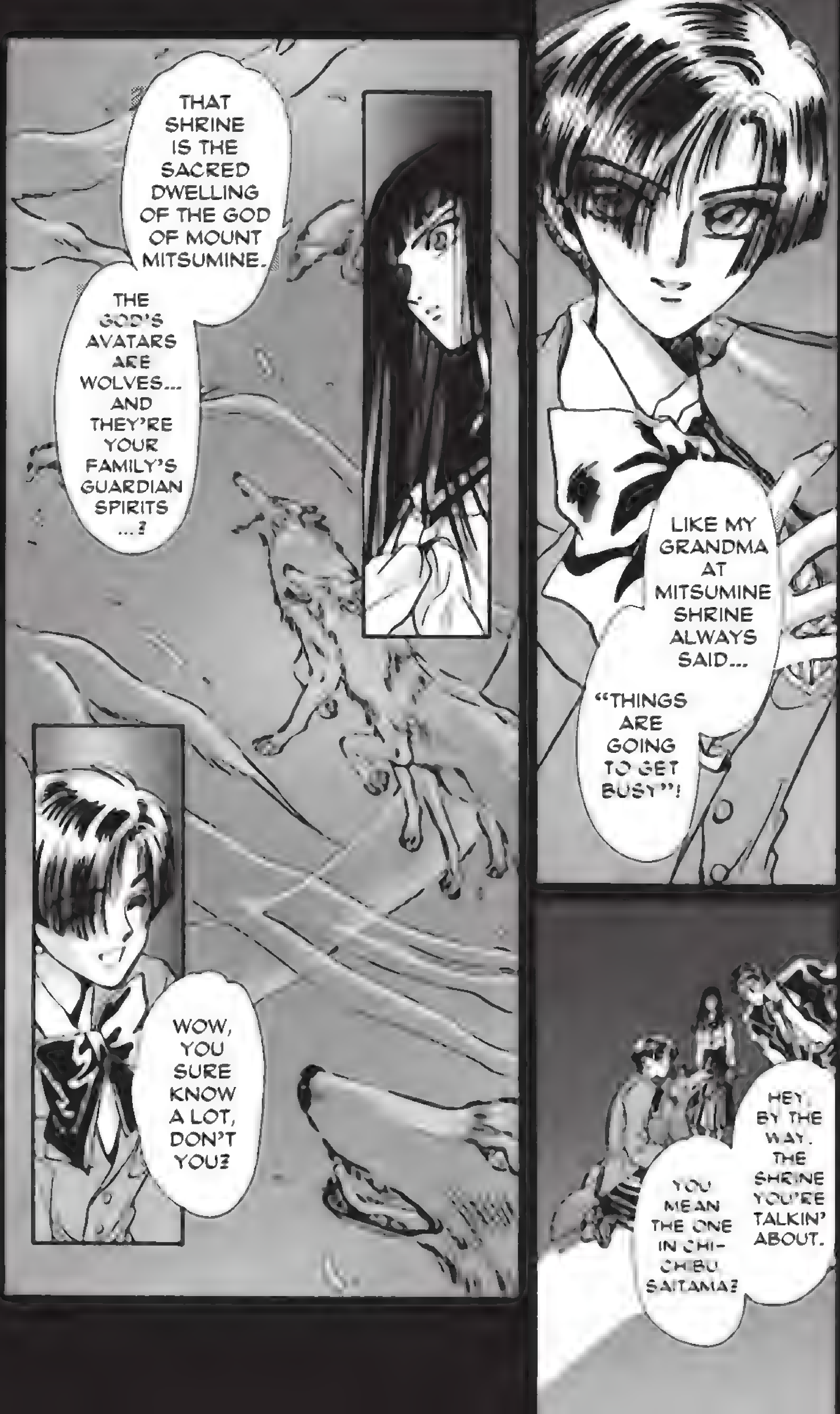

BOOM
WHAT...?
NG

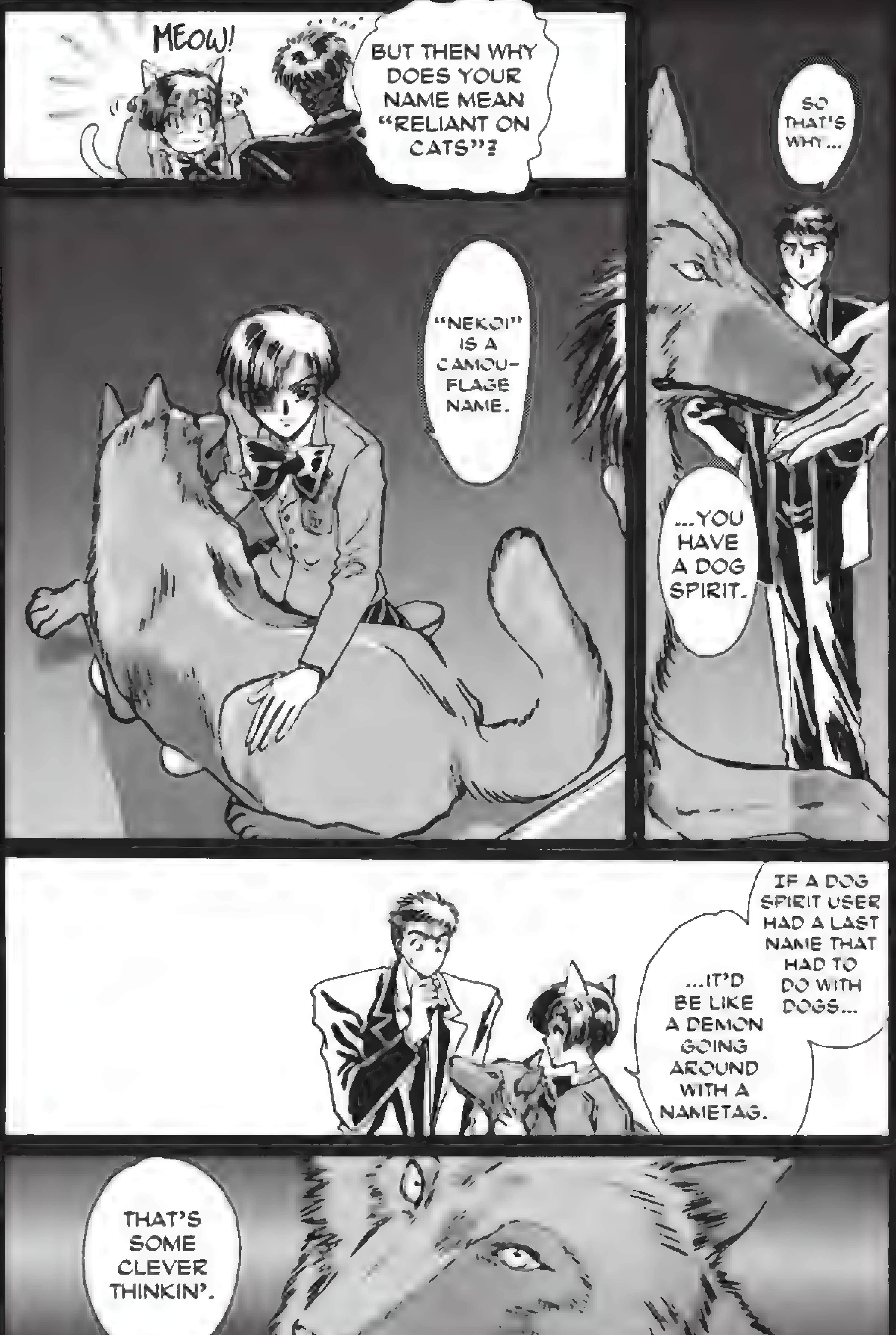


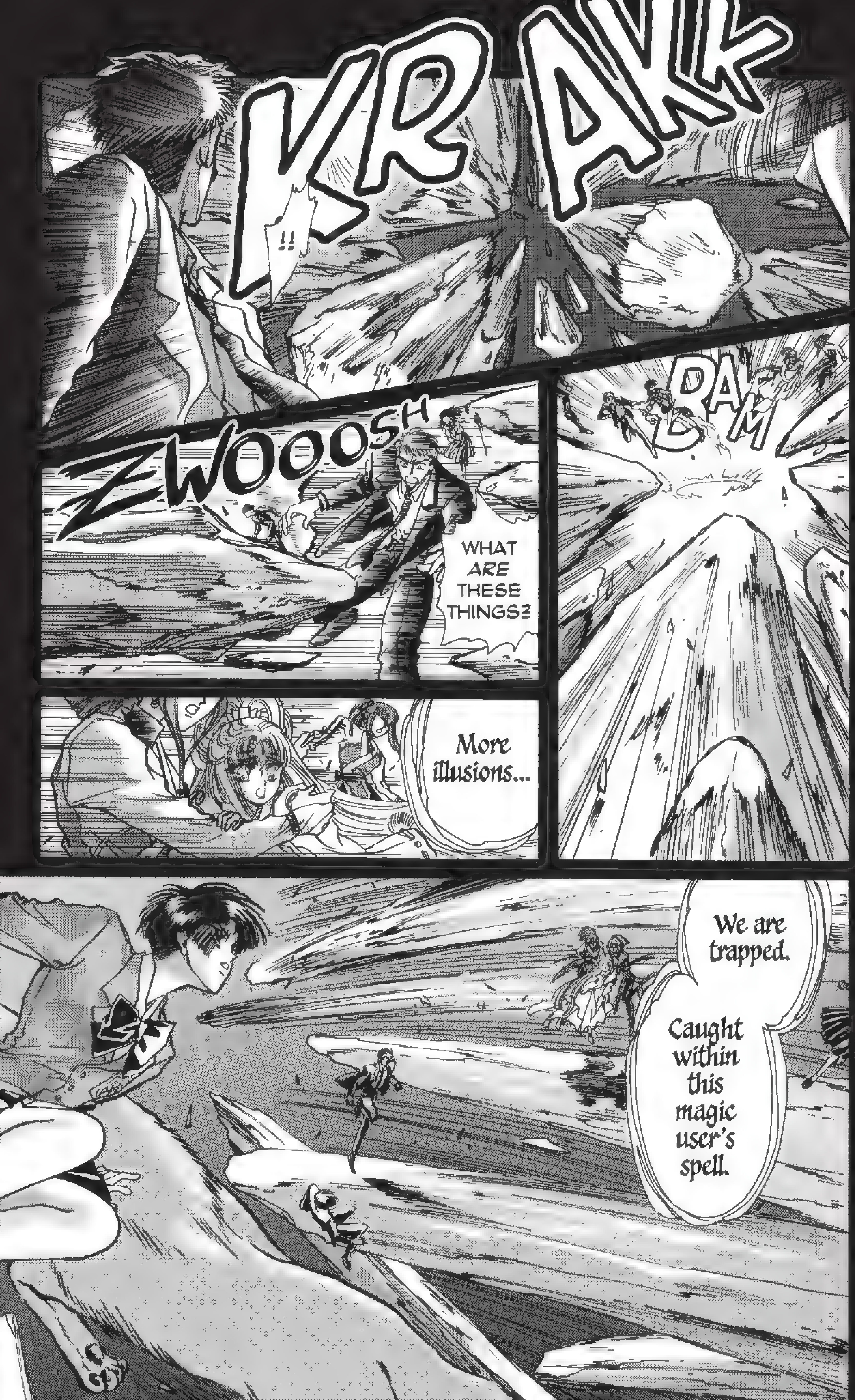

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
This is...
...an illusion.
AN ILLUSION?!
This void is an illusion that someone has created.

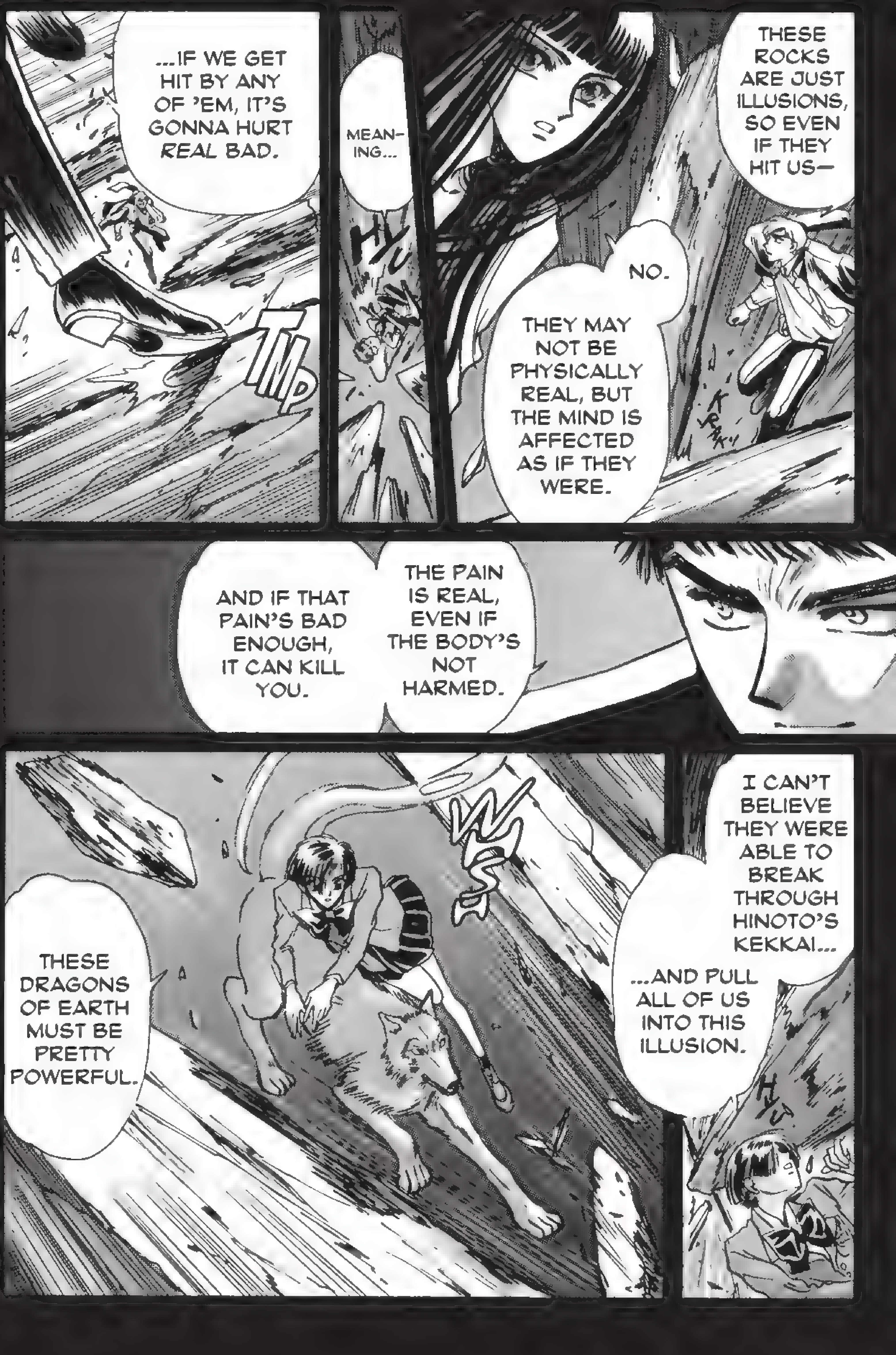

BUT THESE CHAMBERS ARE WARDED BY...
...PRINCESS HINOTO'S KEKKAI!
I believe...
...it is one of the Seven Angels.
KRAK
SO THEY'RE FINALLY ATTACKIN' US HEAD-ON. GOOD.

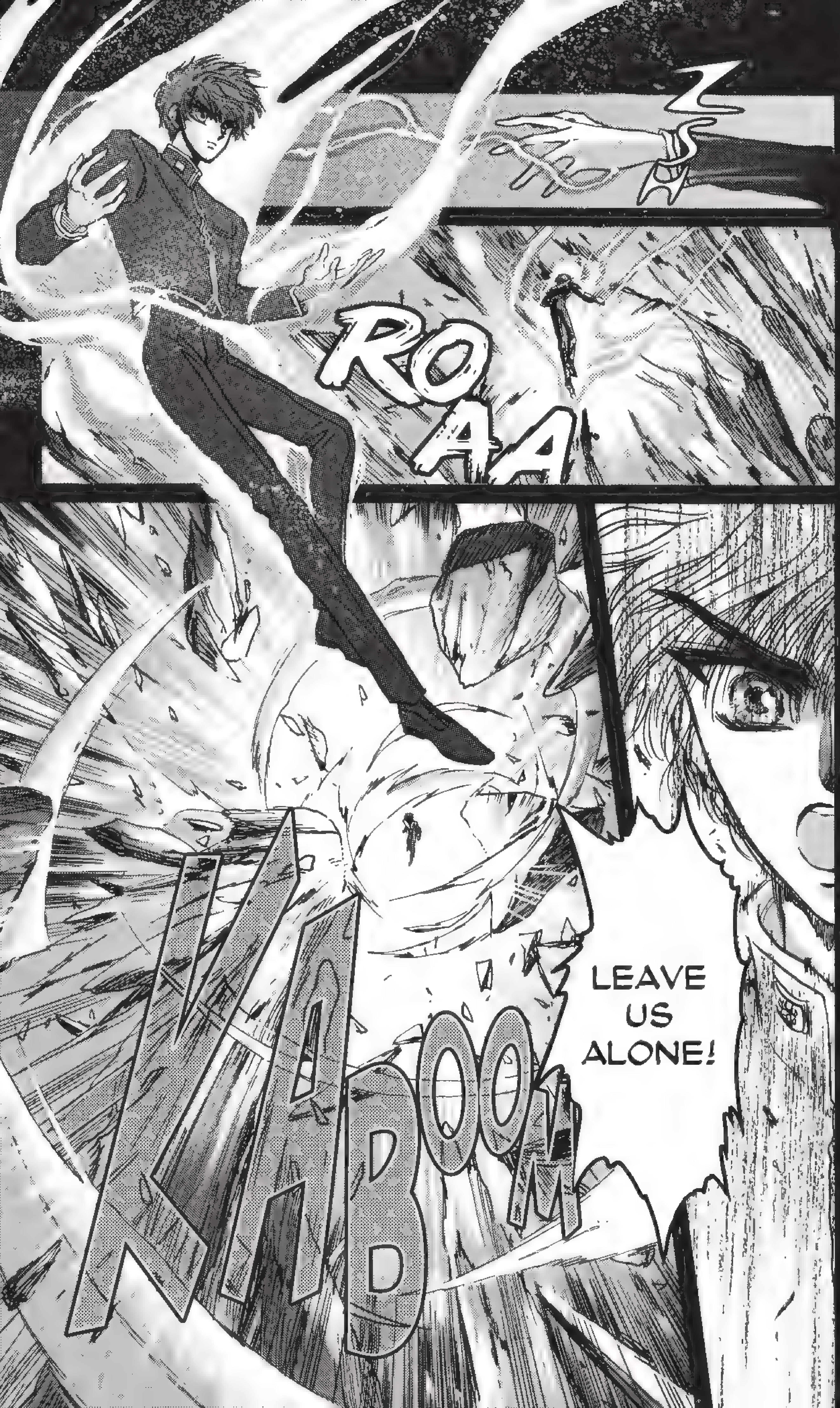

VWOA...
SKLP...
SKLRRRCH
CHING
GUESS WE SHOWED UP JUST IN TIME.
HUH, INUKI?

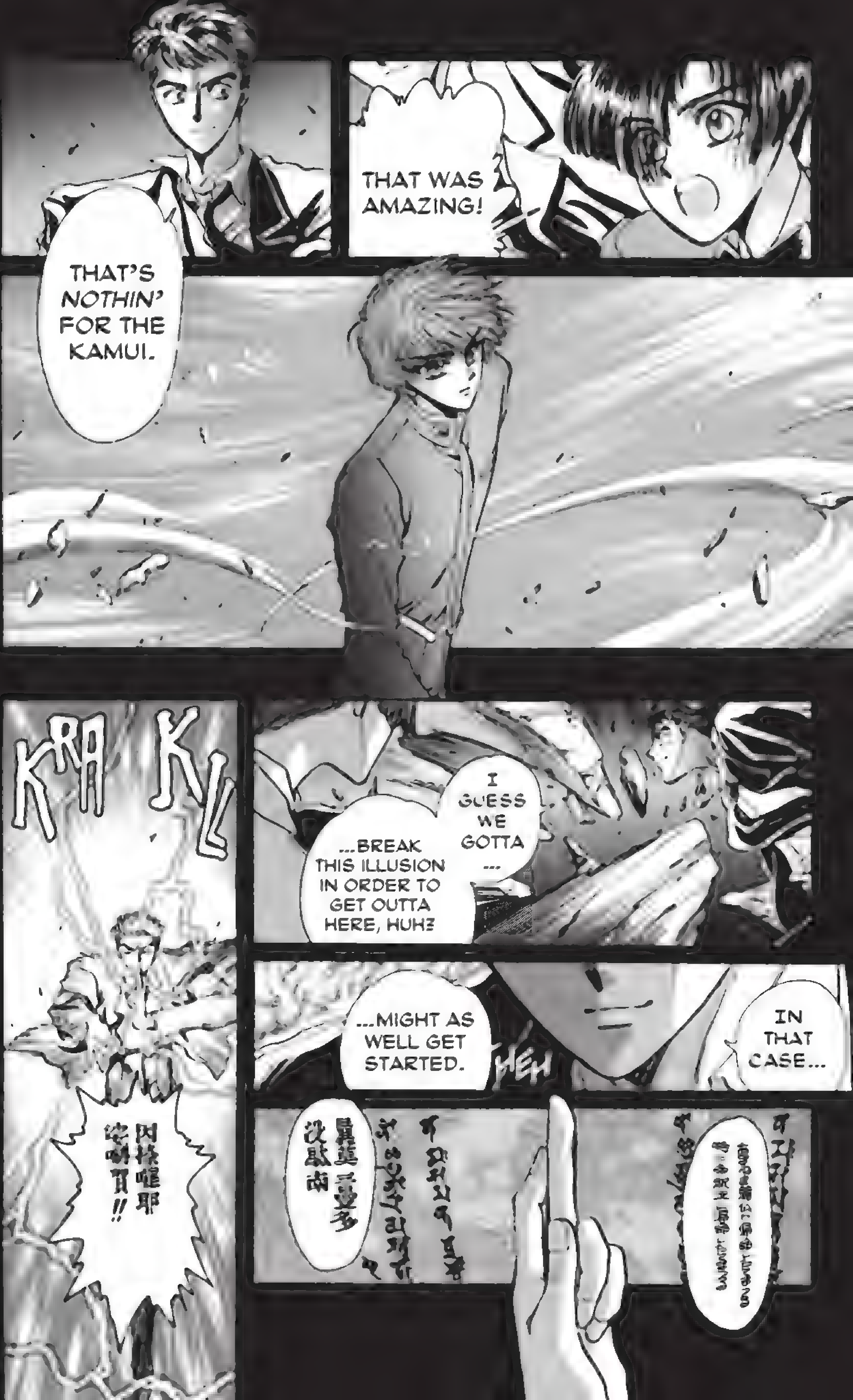

LIKE MY GRANDMA AT MITSUMINE SHRINE ALWAYS SAID... "THINGS ARE GOING TO GET BUSY"!
THAT SHRINE IS THE SACRED DWELLING OF THE GOD OF MOUNT MITSUMINE.
THE GOD'S AVATARS ARE WOLVES... AND THEY'RE YOUR FAMILY'S GUARDIAN SPIRITS...?
WOW, YOU SURE KNOW A LOT, DON'T YOU?
HEY, BY THE WAY, THE SHRINE YOU'RE TALKIN' ABOUT.
YOU MEAN THE ONE IN CHICHIBU SAITAMA?

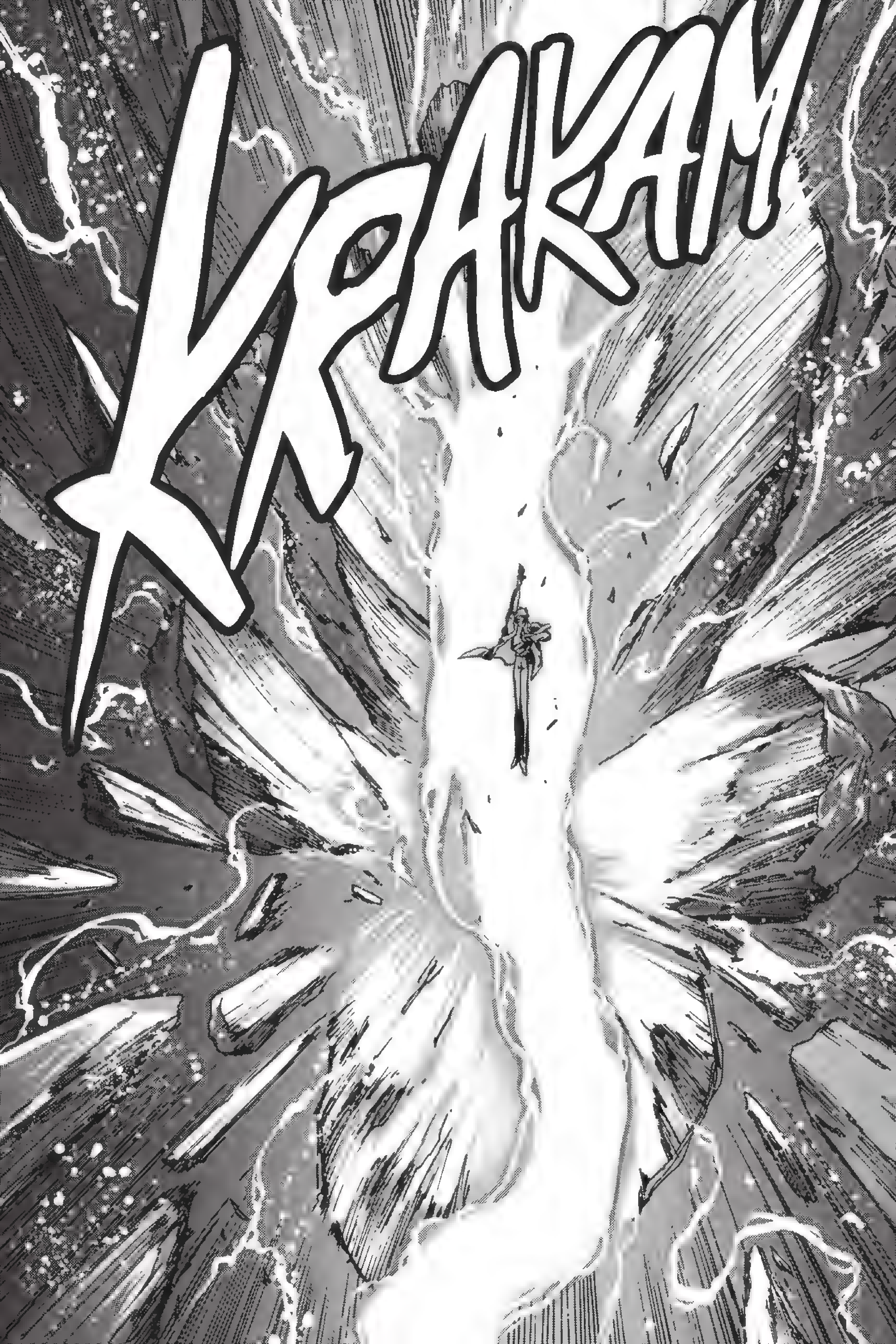

MEOW!
BUT THEN WHY DOES YOUR NAME MEAN "RELIANT ON CATS"?
"NEKOI" IS A CAMOUFLAGE NAME.
SO THAT'S WHY...
...YOU HAVE A DOG SPIRIT.
IF A DOG SPIRIT USER HAD A LAST NAME THAT HAD TO DO WITH DOGS...
...IT'D BE LIKE A DEMON GOING AROUND WITH A NAMETAG.
THAT'S SOME CLEVER THINKIN'.

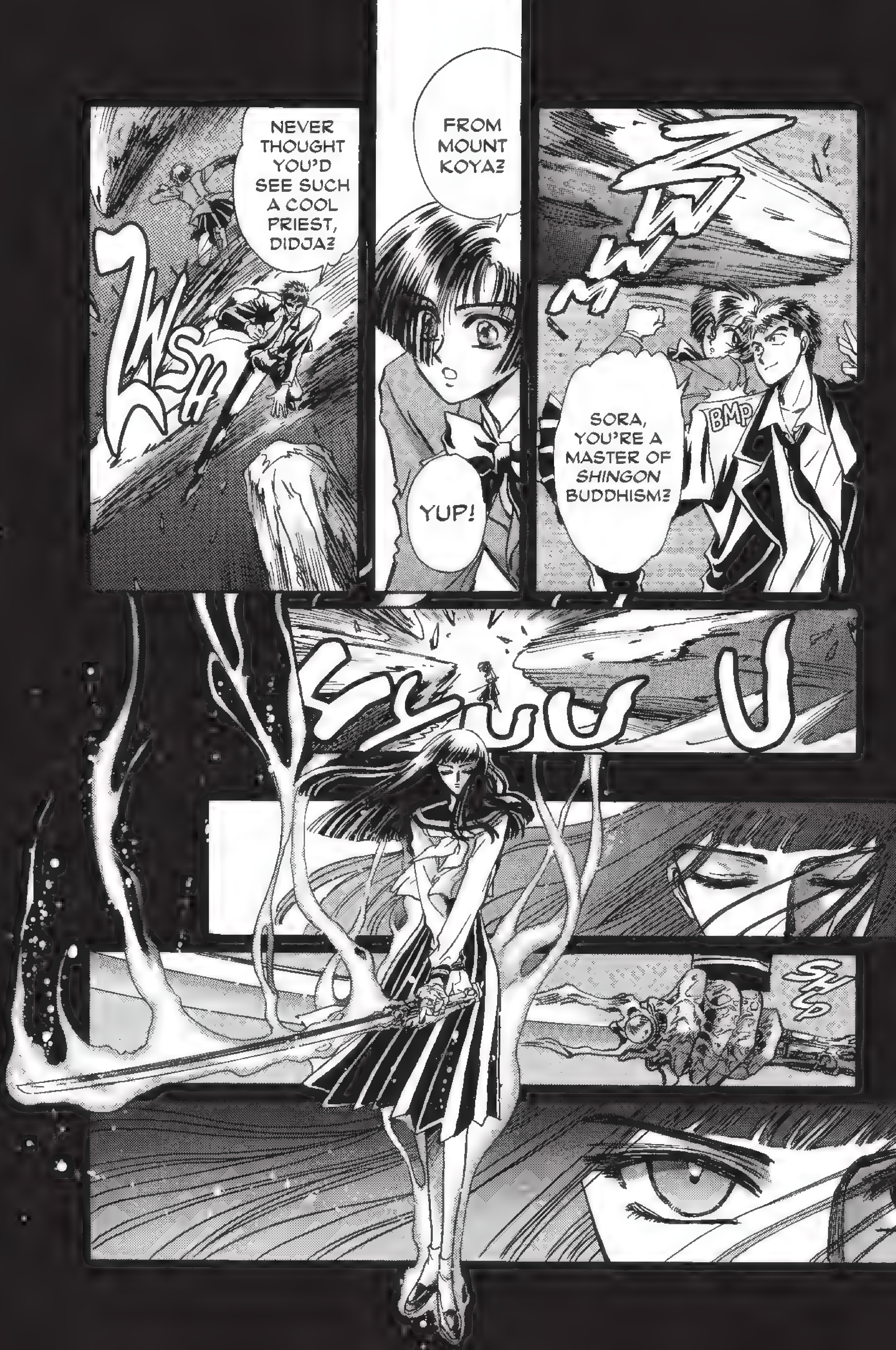

KRAKK
!!
ZWOOOSH
WHAT ARE THESE THINGS?!
BAMM
More illusions...
We are trapped.
Caught within this magic user's spell.

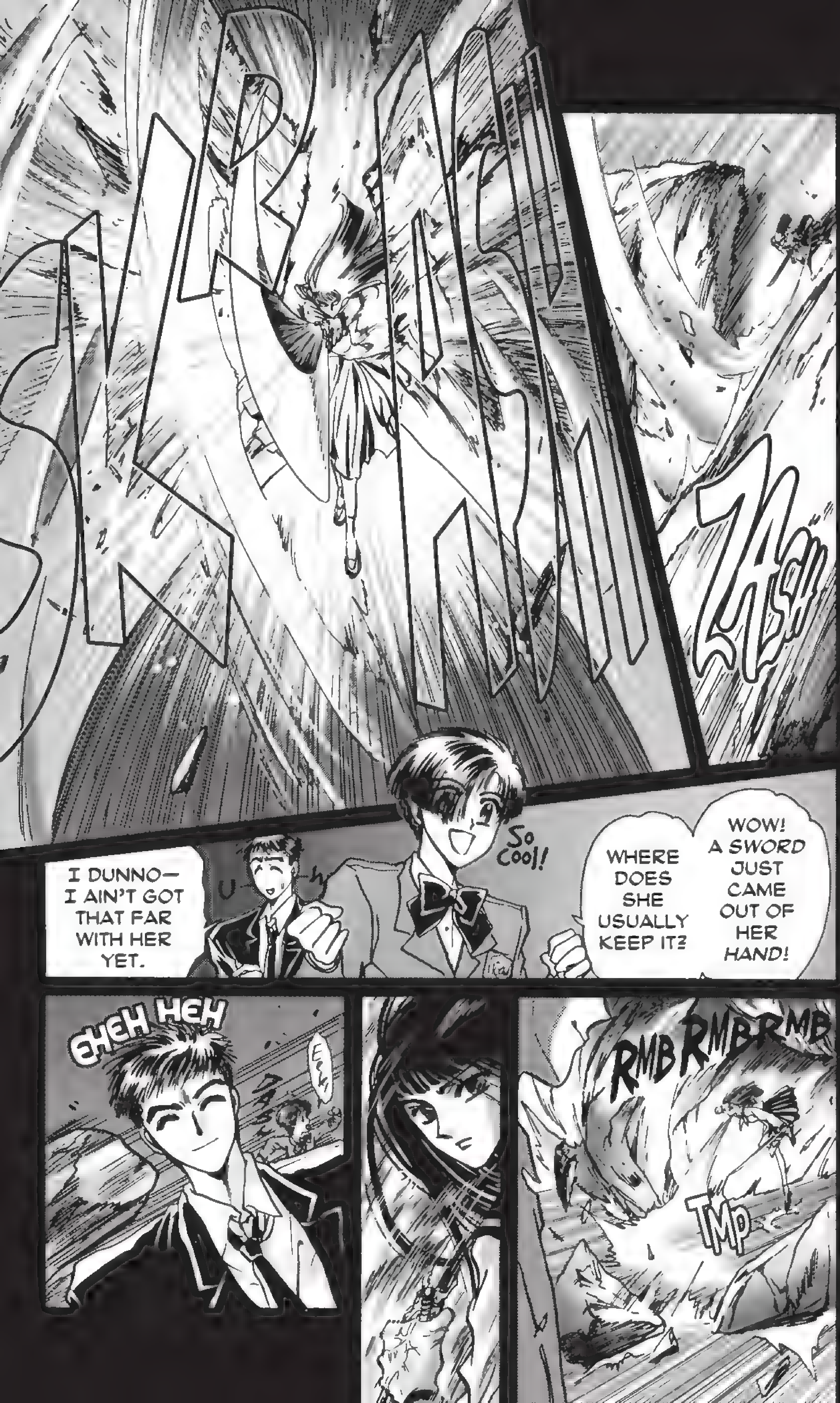

THESE ROCKS ARE JUST ILLUSIONS, SO EVEN IF THEY HIT US—
KRAK
NO.
THEY MAY NOT BE PHYSICALLY REAL, BUT THE MIND IS AFFECTED AS IF THEY WERE.
MEAN-ING...
HYU
...IF WE GET HIT BY ANY OF 'EM, IT'S GONNA HURT *REAL* BAD.
TMP
THE PAIN IS REAL, EVEN IF THE BODY'S NOT HARMED.
AND IF THAT PAIN'S BAD ENOUGH, IT CAN KILL YOU.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY WERE ABLE TO BREAK THROUGH HINOTO'S KEKKAI...
...AND PULL ALL OF US INTO THIS ILLUSION.
HYU
THESE DRAGONS OF EARTH MUST BE PRETTY POWERFUL.

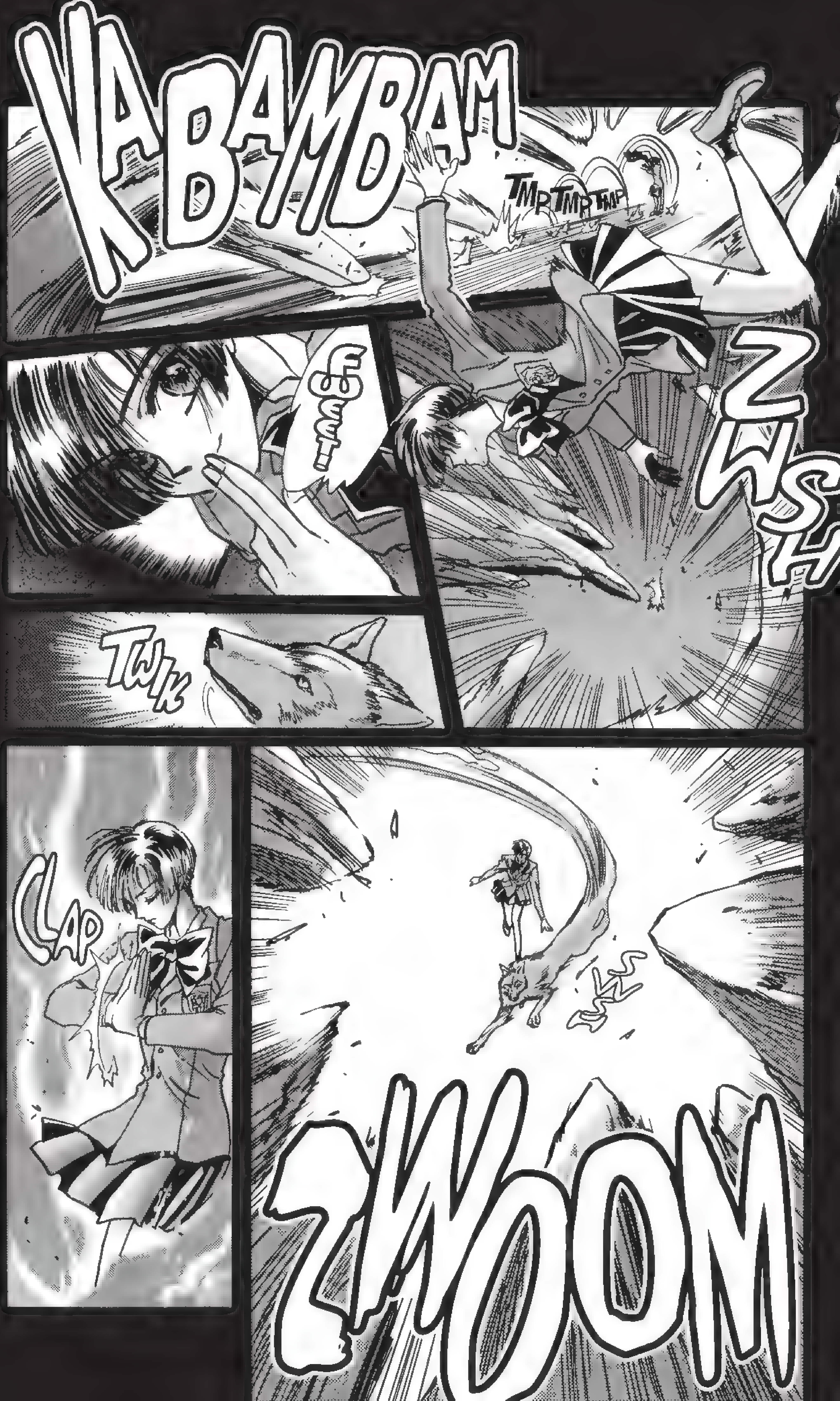

ROAA
KABOOM
LEAVE US ALONE!


THAT WAS AMAZING!
THAT'S *NOTHIN'* FOR THE KAMUI.
I GUESS WE GOTTA ---
...BREAK THIS ILLUSION IN ORDER TO GET OUTTA HERE, HUH?
IN THAT CASE...
HEH
...MIGHT AS WELL GET STARTED.
曩莫 三曼多 沒馱南
KRA KLL
因陀囉耶 娑嚩賀!!

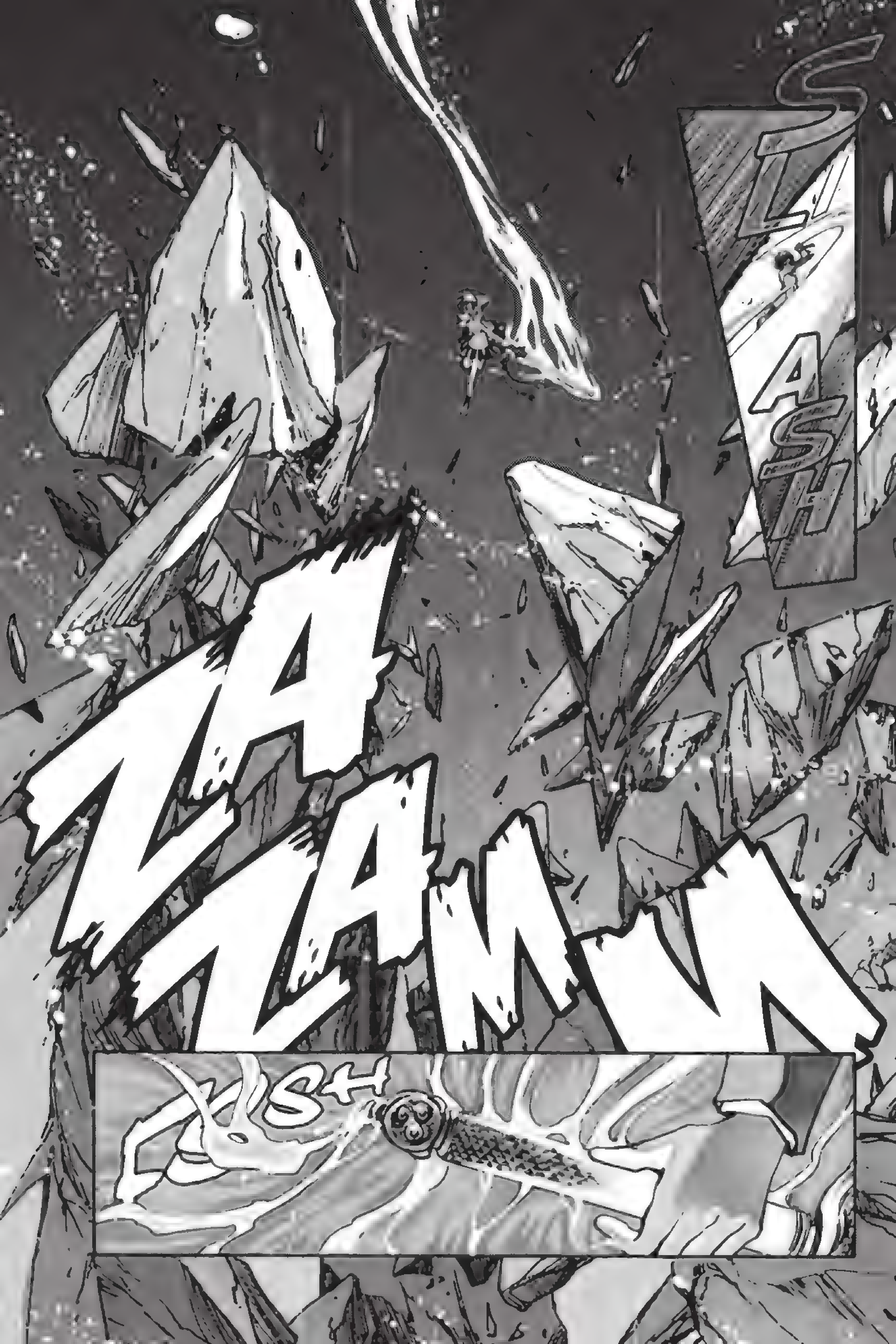

KRAKAM

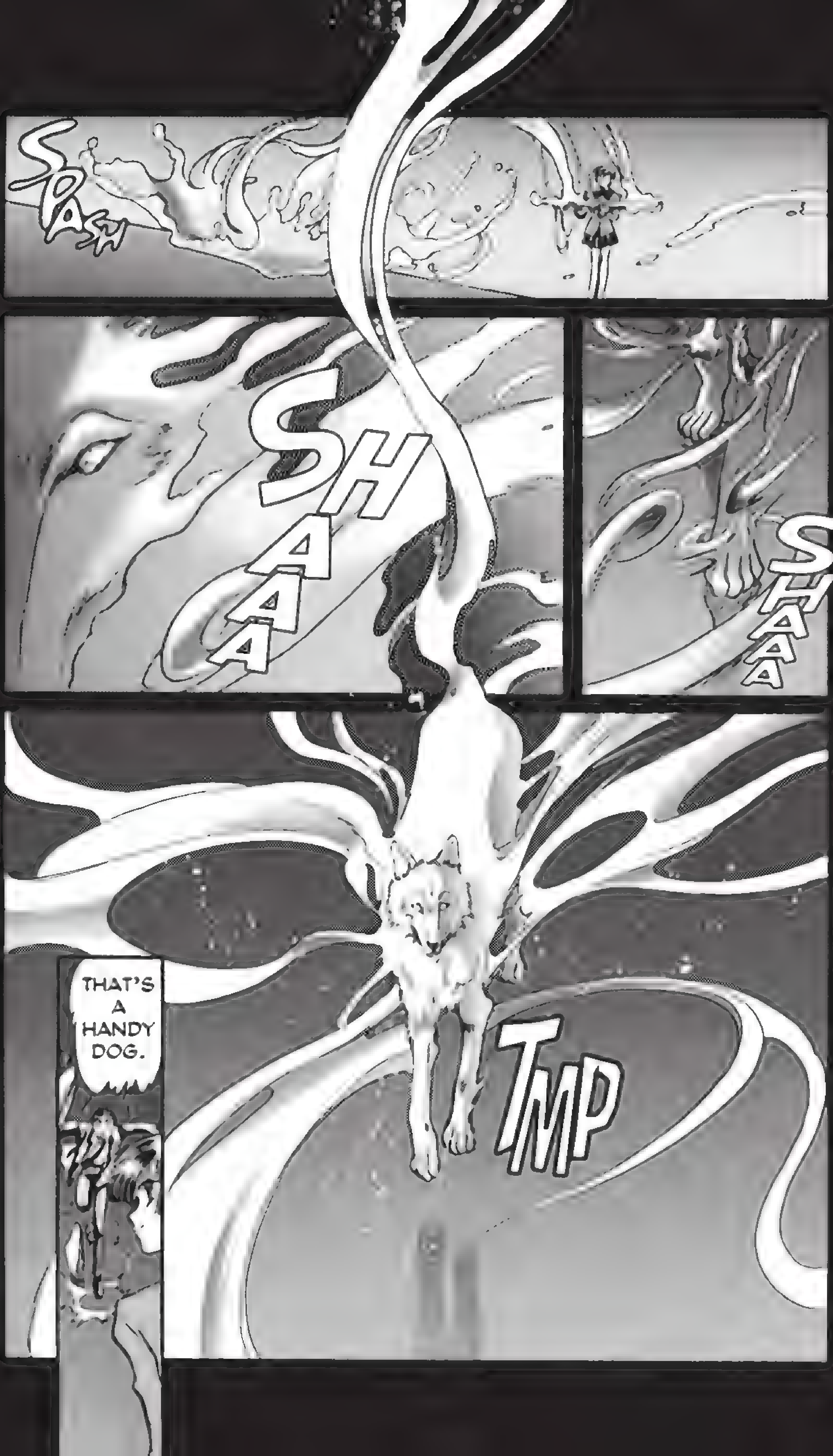

ZWMMM
BMP
SORA, YOU'RE A MASTER OF *SHINGON* BUDDHISM?
FROM MOUNT KOYA?
YUP!
NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D SEE SUCH A COOL PRIEST, DIDJA?
ZWSH
SHUUU
SHP

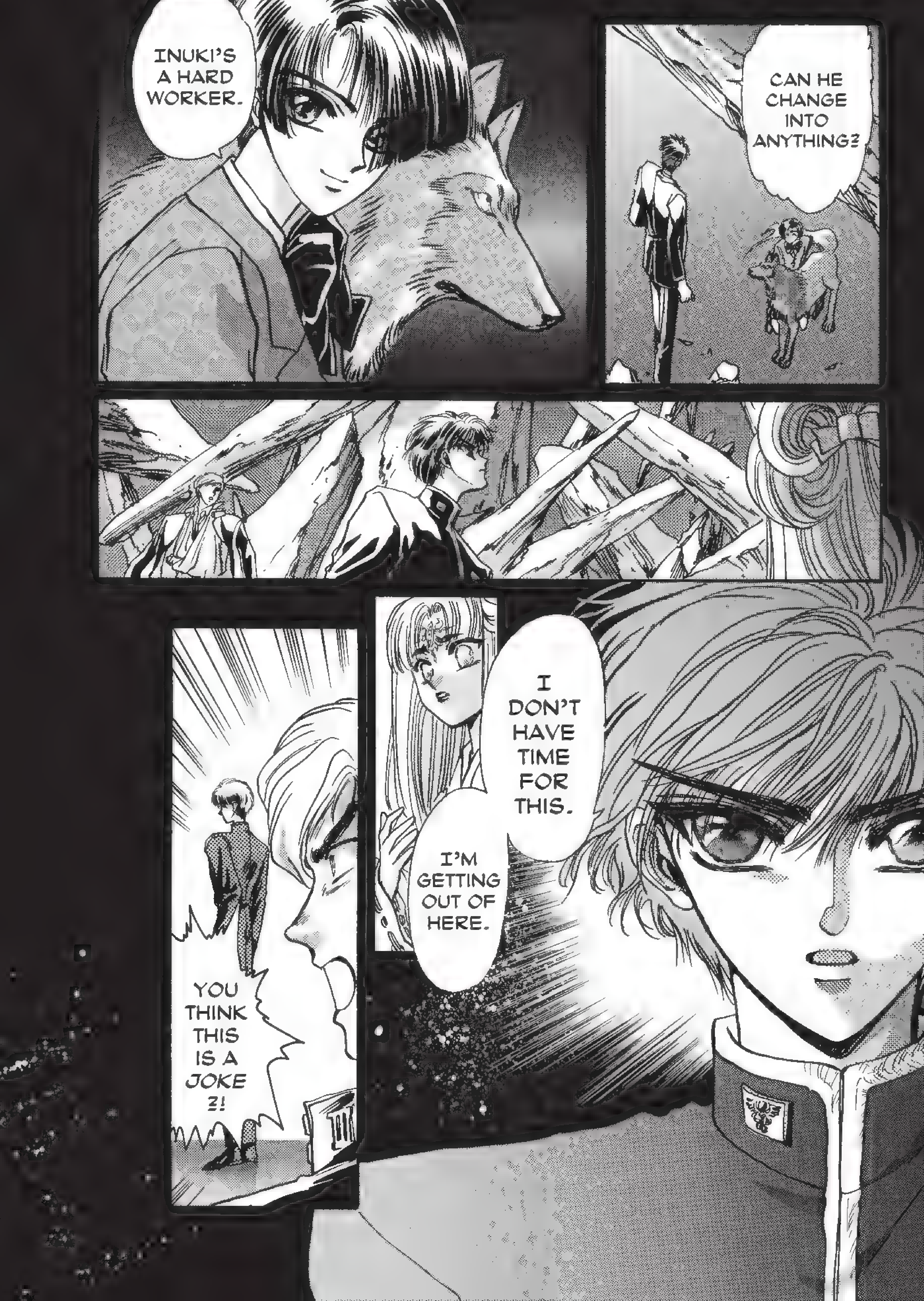

ZASH
WOW! A *SWORD* JUST CAME OUT OF HER *HAND!*
WHERE DOES SHE USUALLY KEEP IT?
So Cool!
I DUNNO— I AIN'T GOT THAT FAR WITH HER YET.
EHEH HEH
Eek!
RMBRMBRMB
TMP

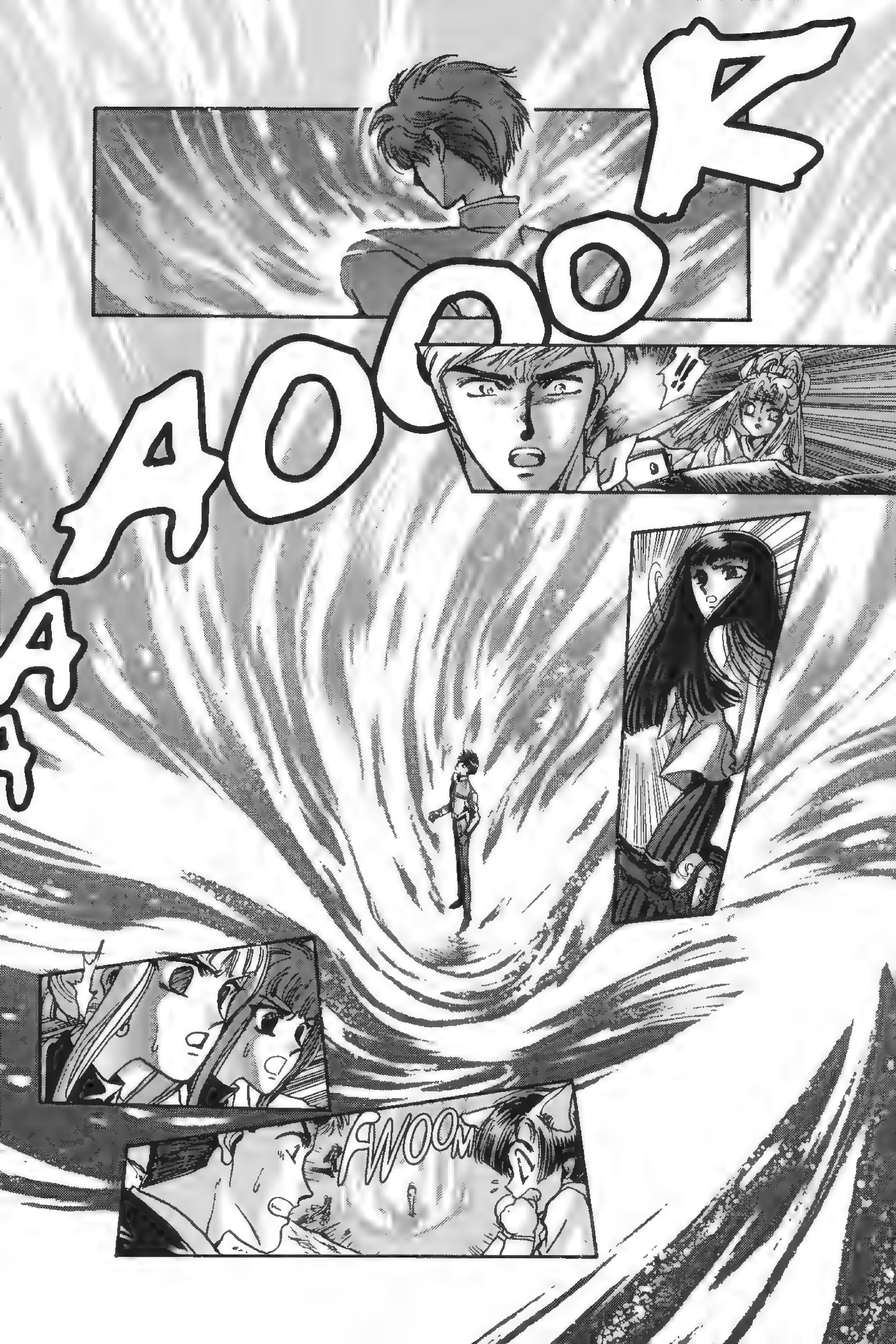

KABAMBAM
TMP TMP TMP
ZWSH
FWEET!
TWIK
ZWOOM
SWS
CLAP

HYU
AAAAHS
SWAP

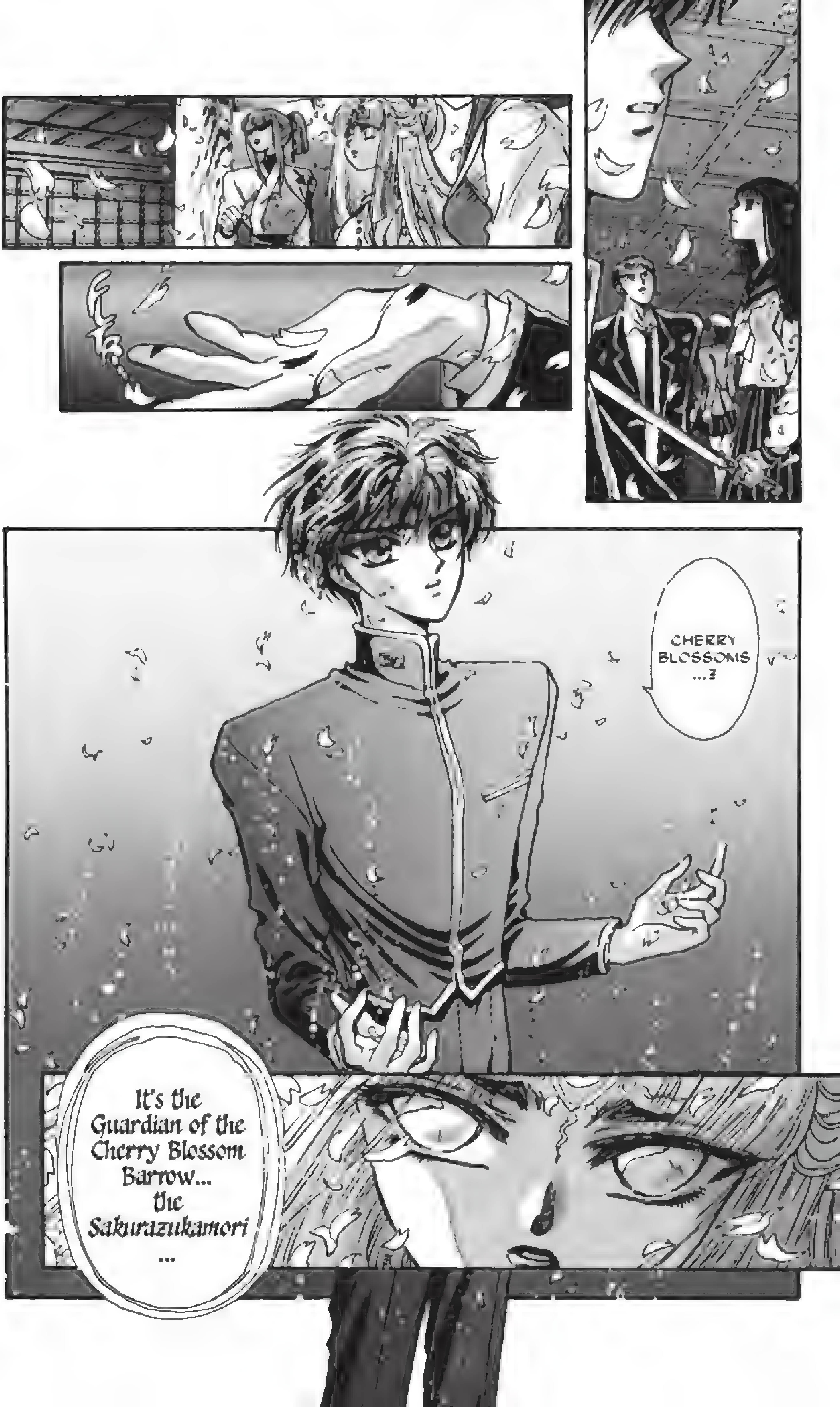

FLASH
ZAZAMM
WSH

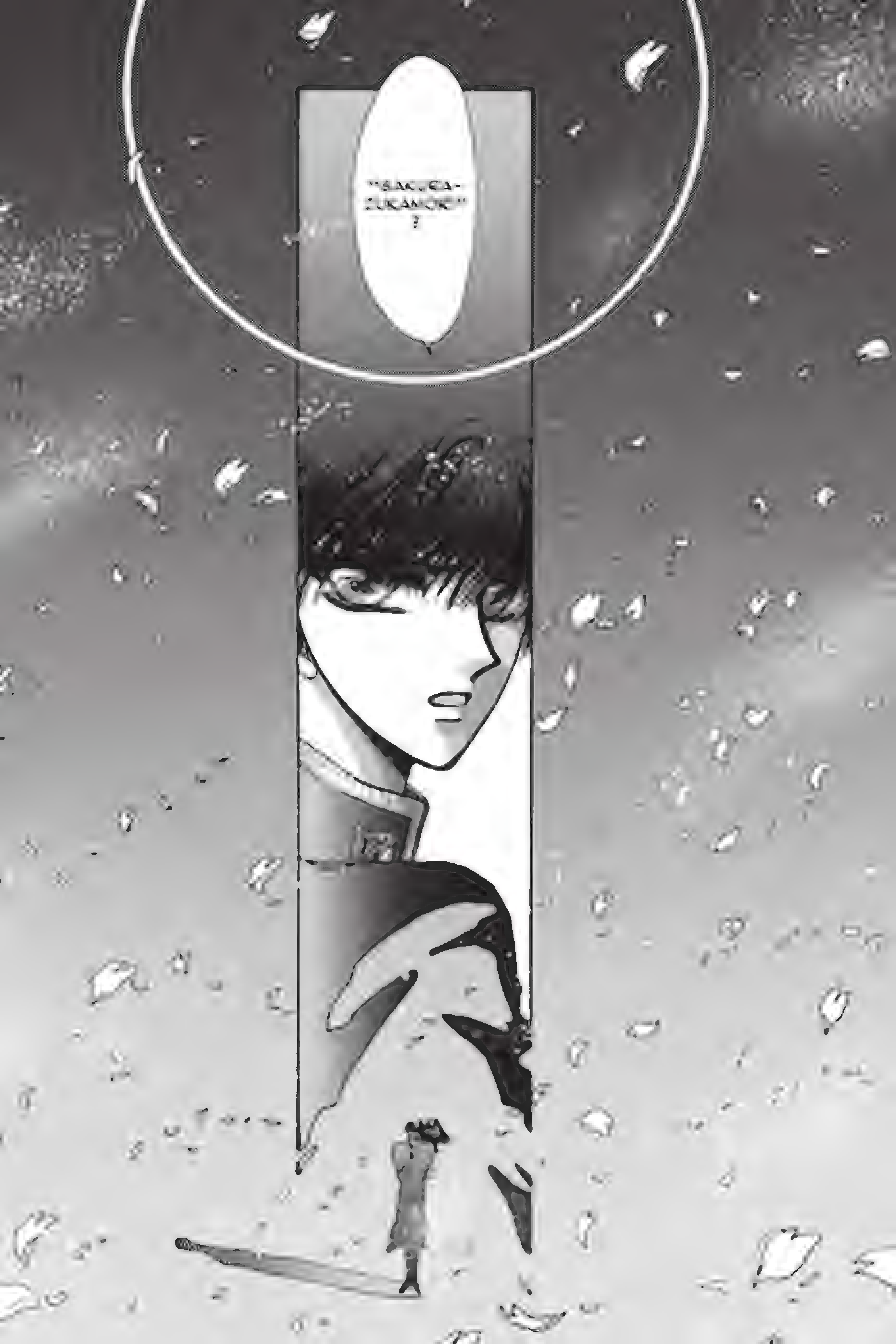

SPASH
SHAAAA
SHAAAA
THAT'S A HANDY DOG.
TMP

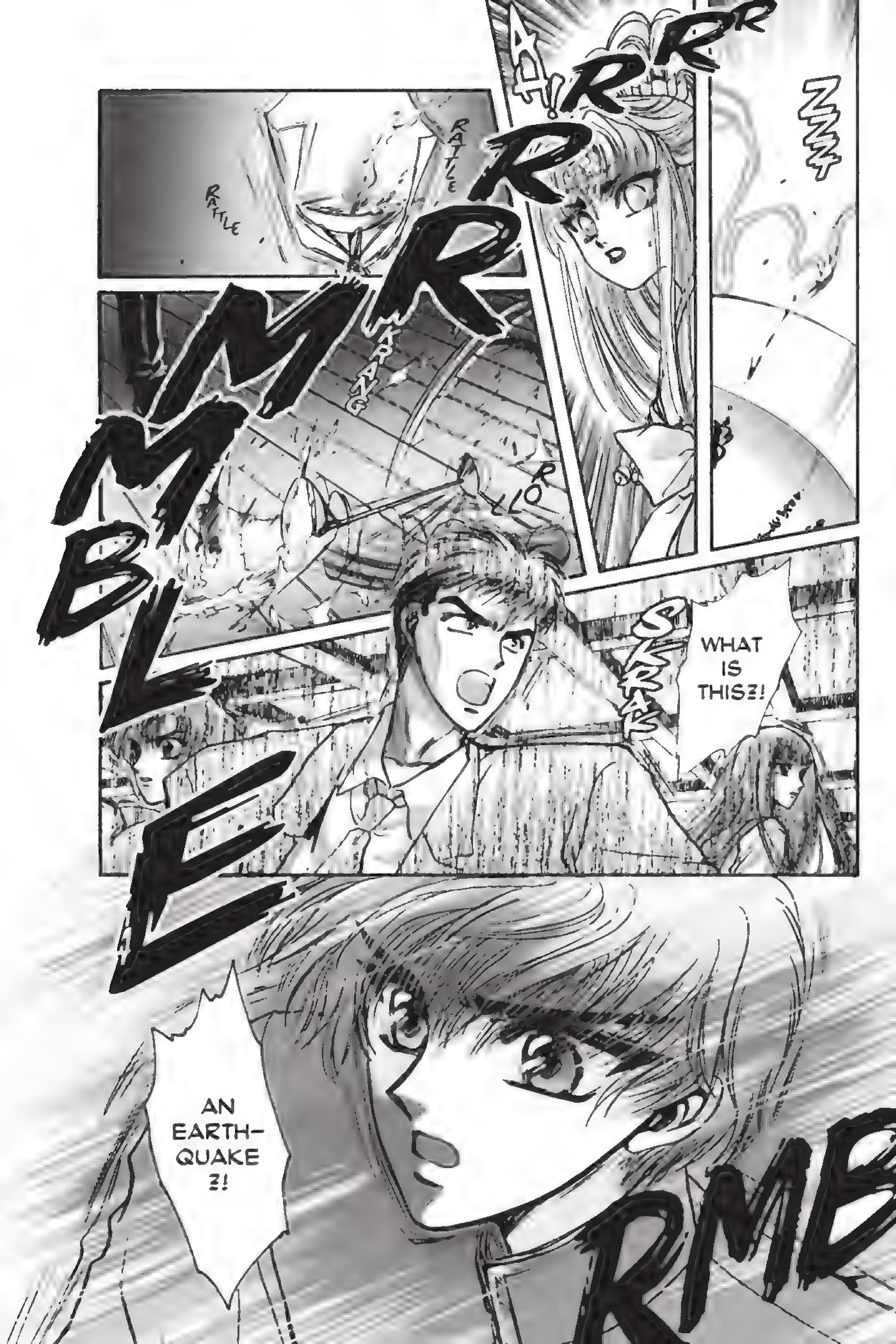

CAN HE CHANGE INTO ANYTHING?
INUKI'S A HARD WORKER.
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.
I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE.
YOU THINK THIS IS A *JOKE*?!

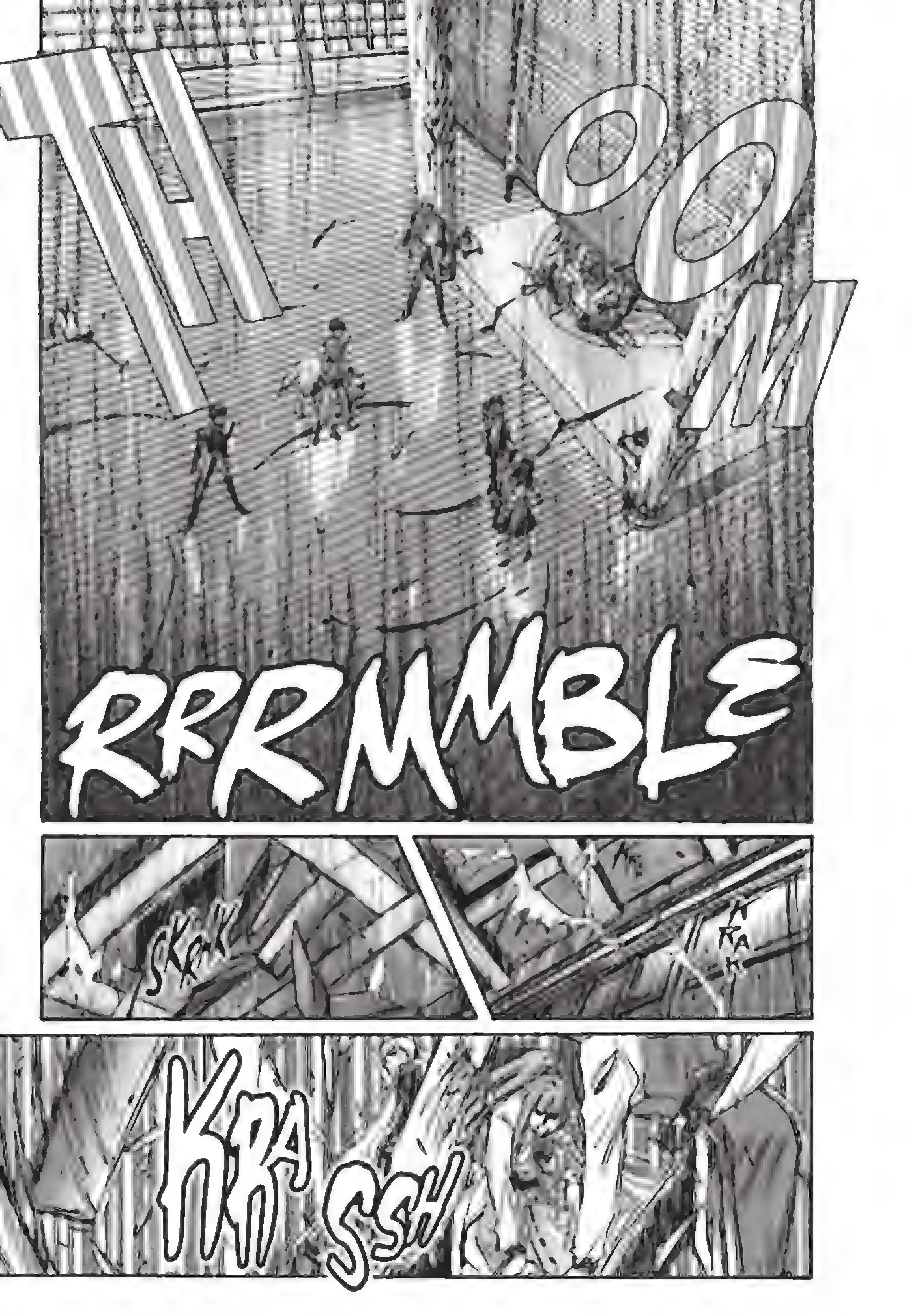

AAAOOOOK
!!
FWOOM

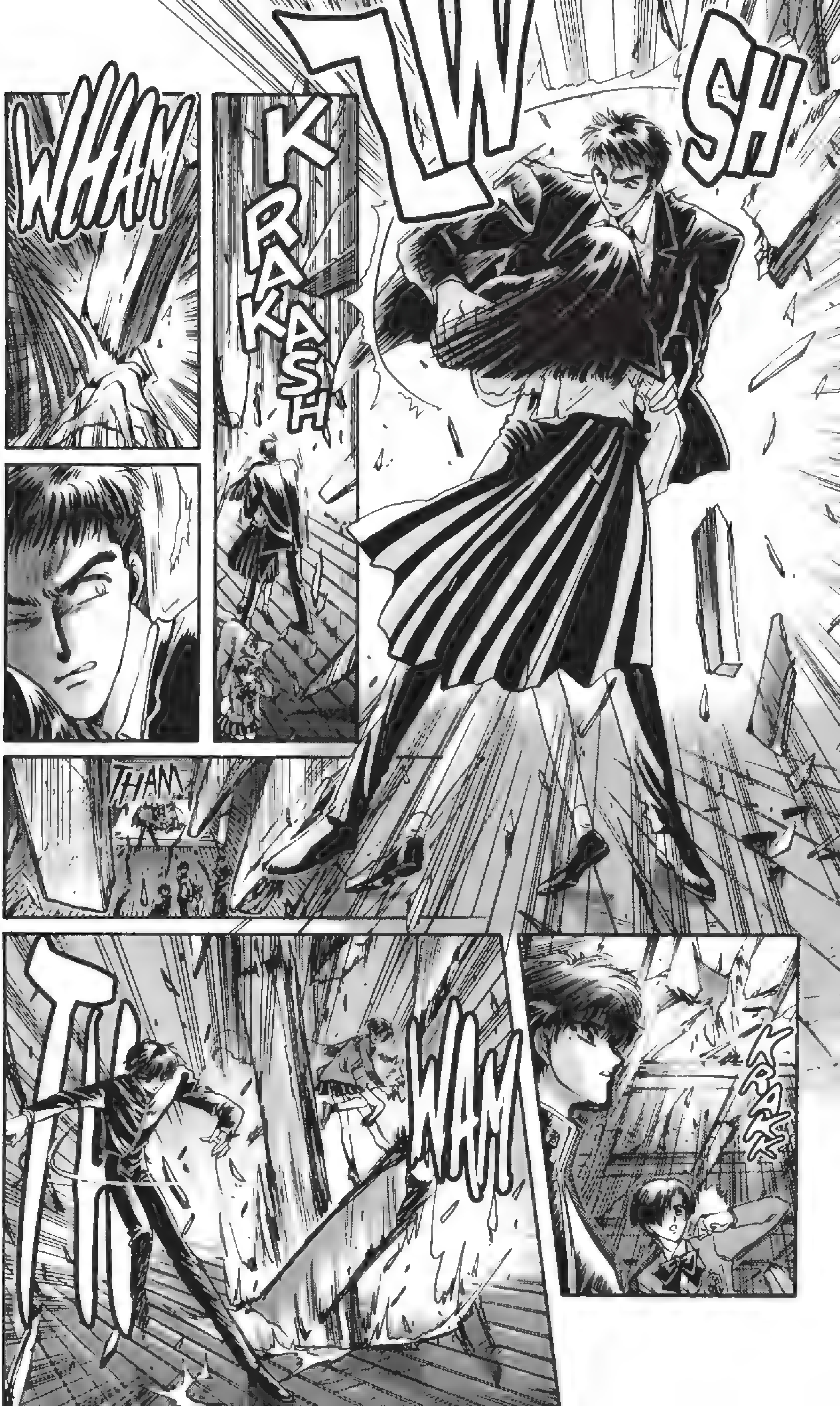
KOOM
KRA

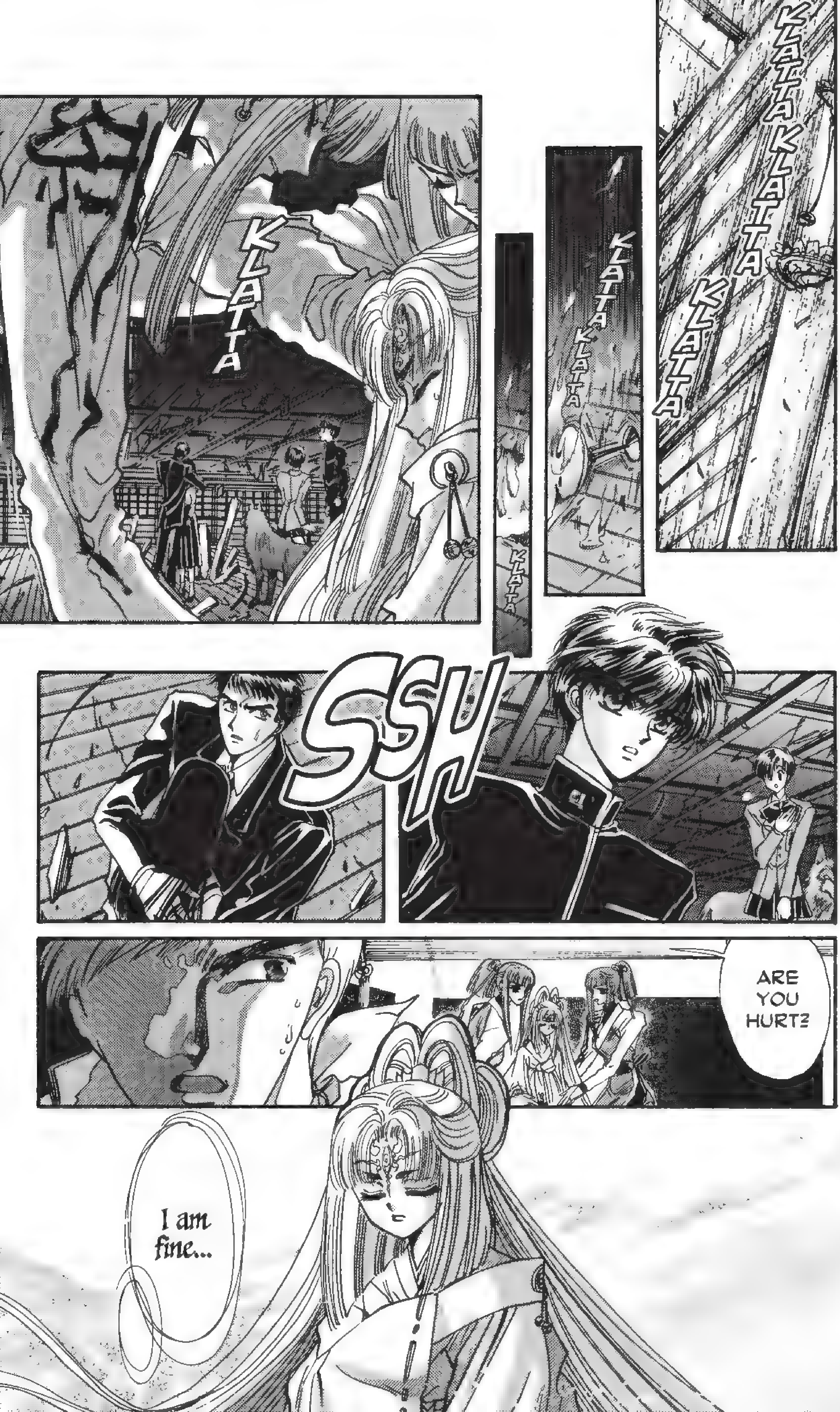

CHERRY BLOSSOMS ...?
It's the Guardian of the Cherry Blossom Barrow... the Sakurazukamori ...

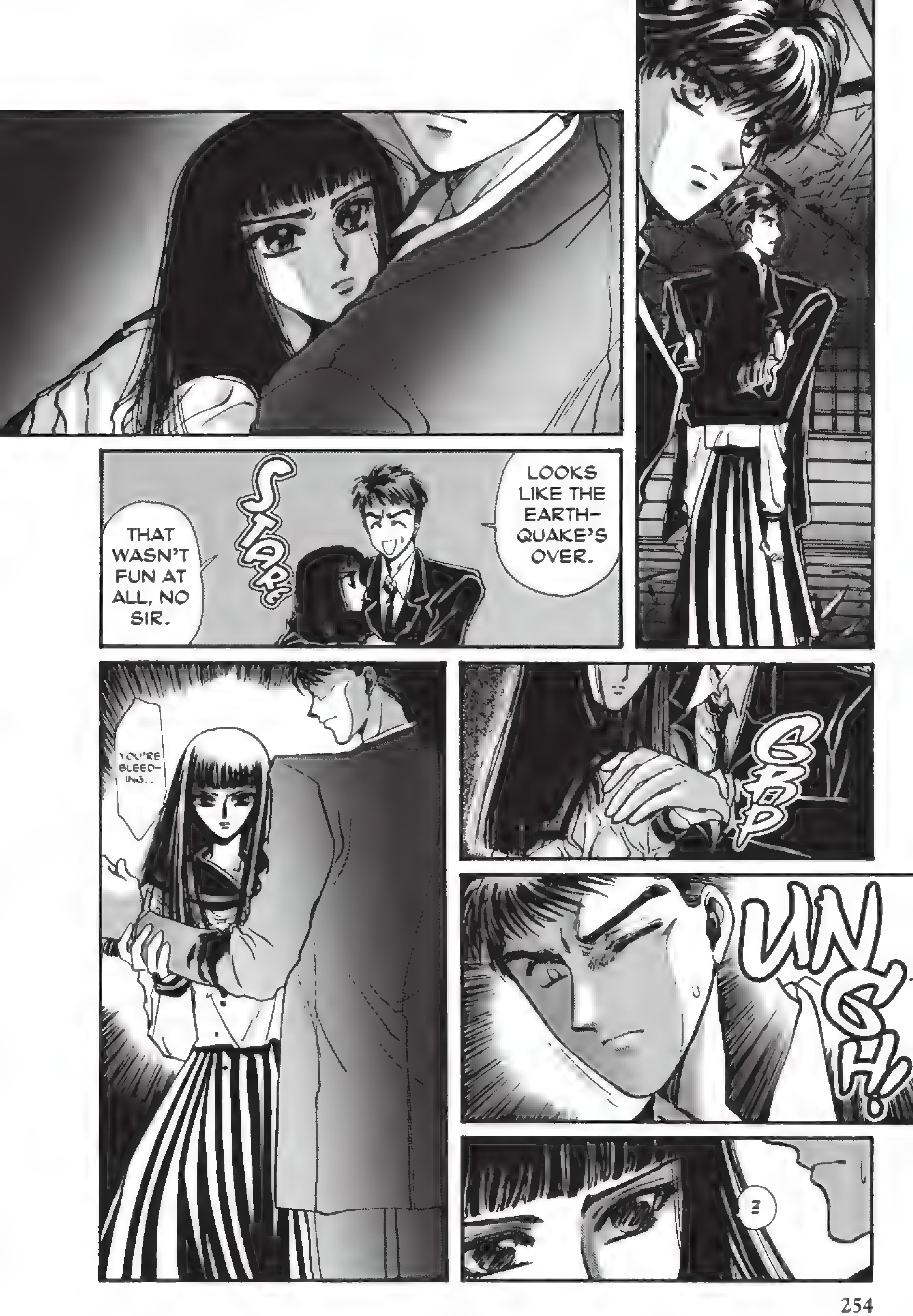

"SAKURA-ZUKAMORI"?

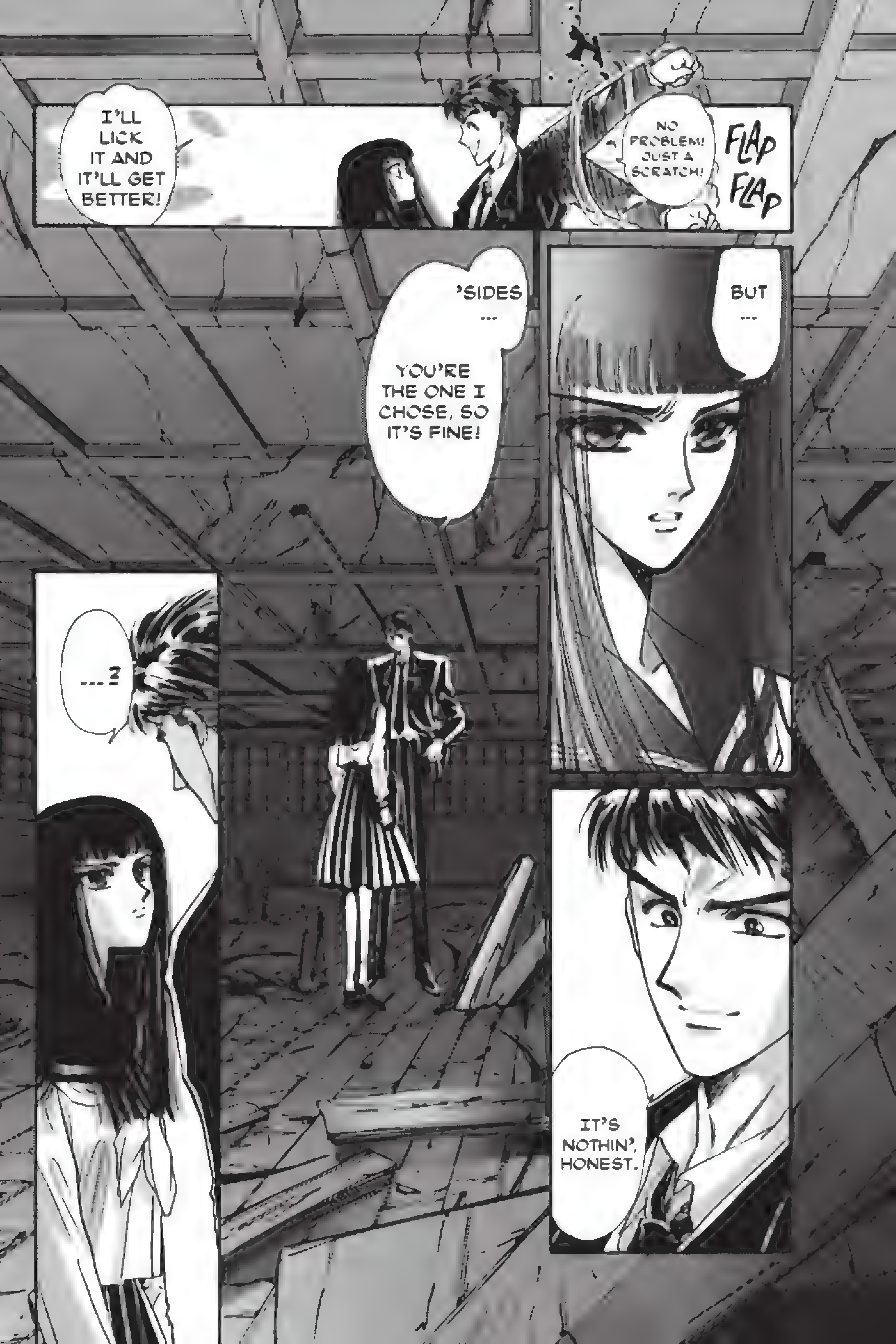

A!
RRRRMMBLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
KRANG
ROLL
SKRAK
WHAT IS THIS?!
AN EARTH-QUAKE?!
RMB

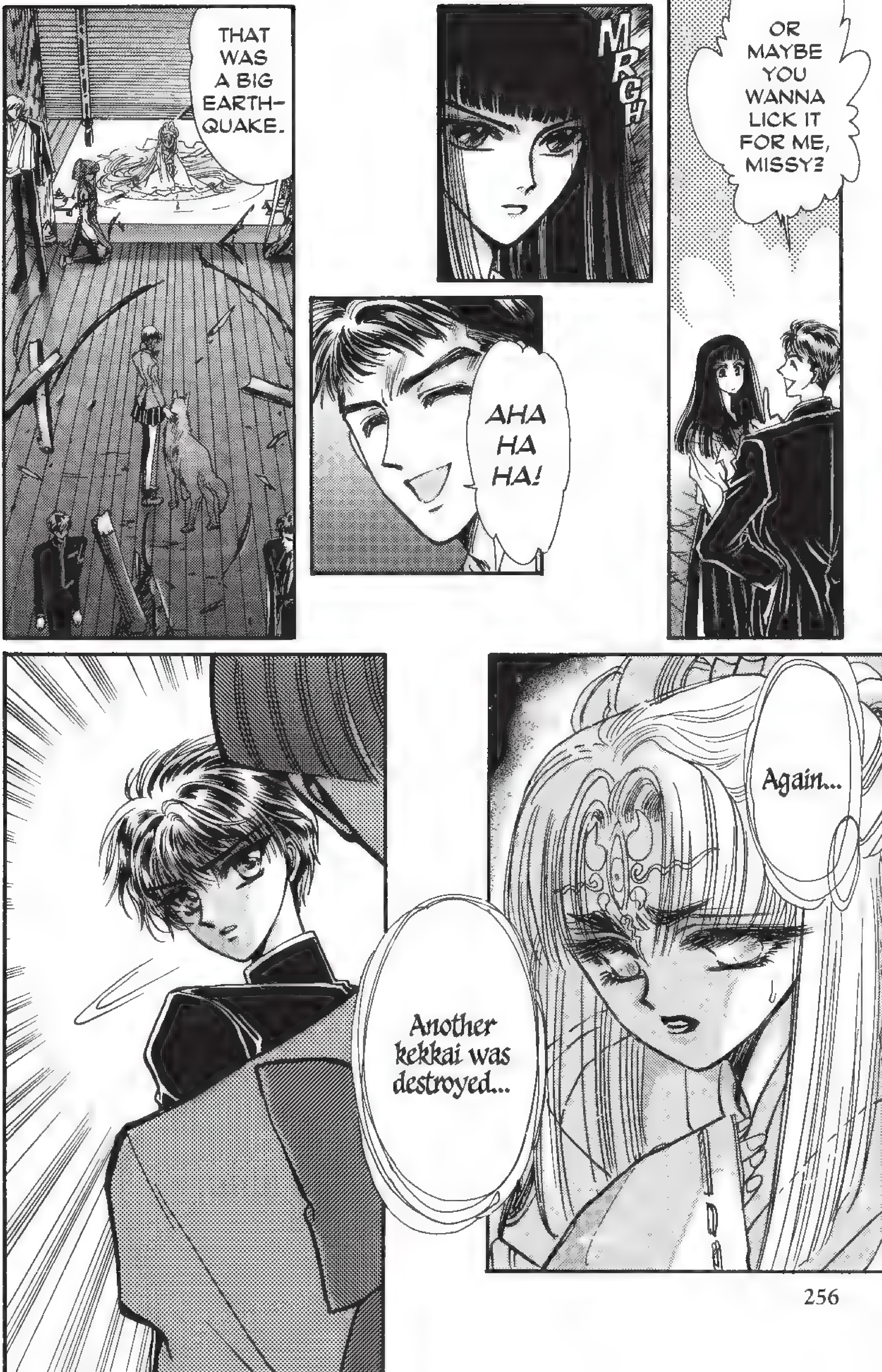

THOOM
RRRMMBLE
SKRK
KRAK
KRASSH

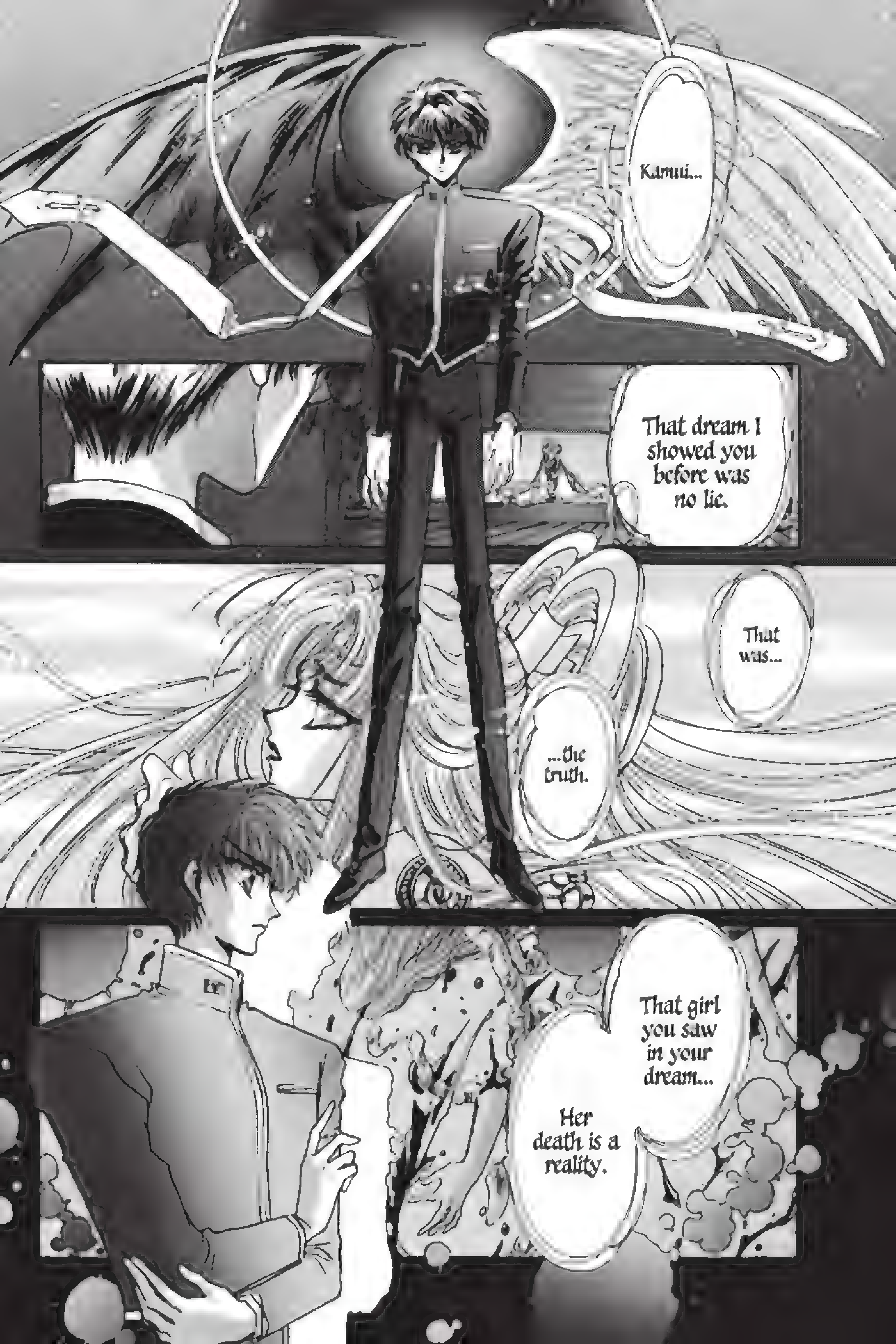

WSH
KRAKASH
WHAM
THAM
KRAK
WAM
TH

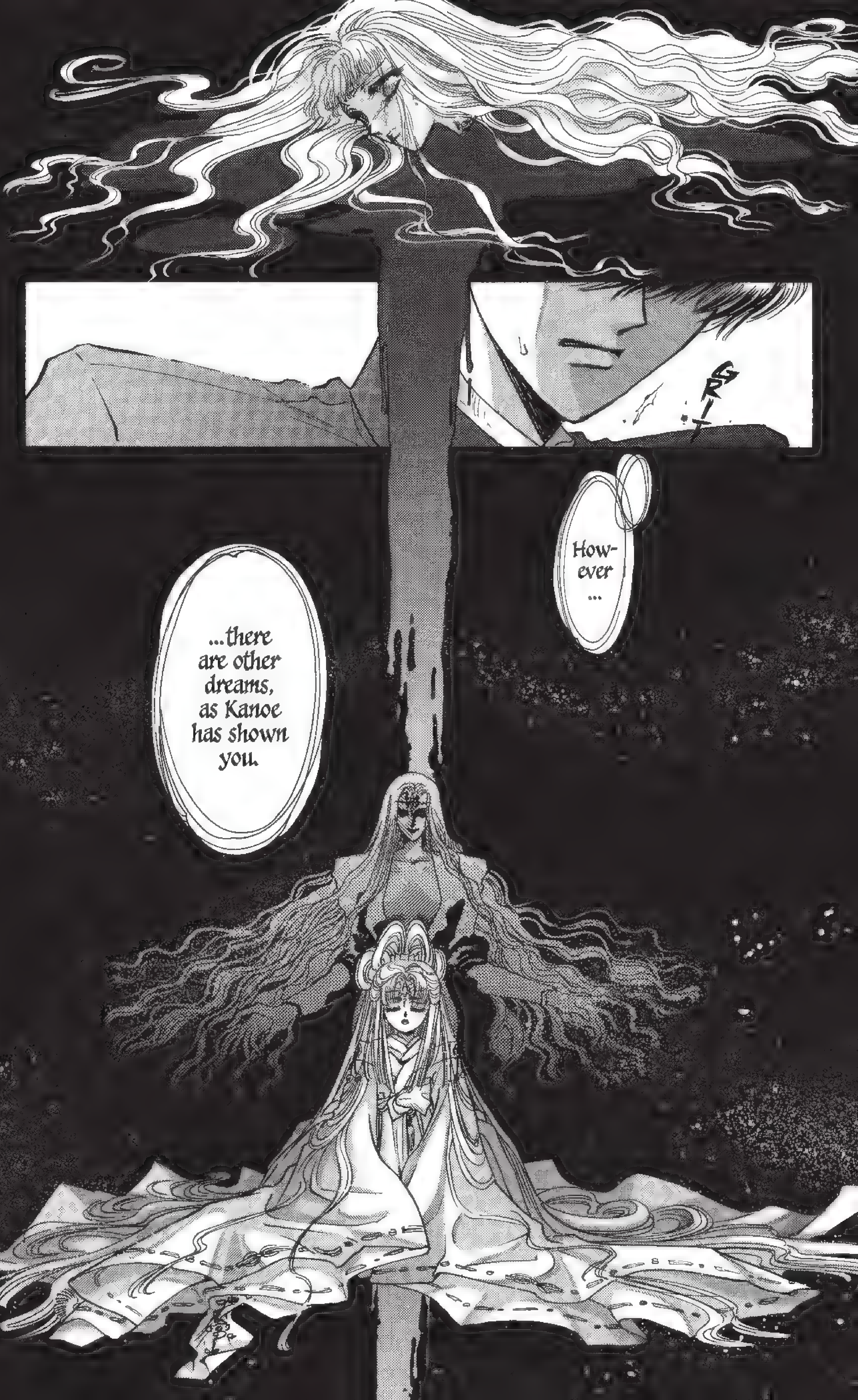

KLATTAKLATTA
KLATTA
KLATTA KLATTA
KLATTA
KLATTA
SSH
ARE YOU HURT?
I am fine...

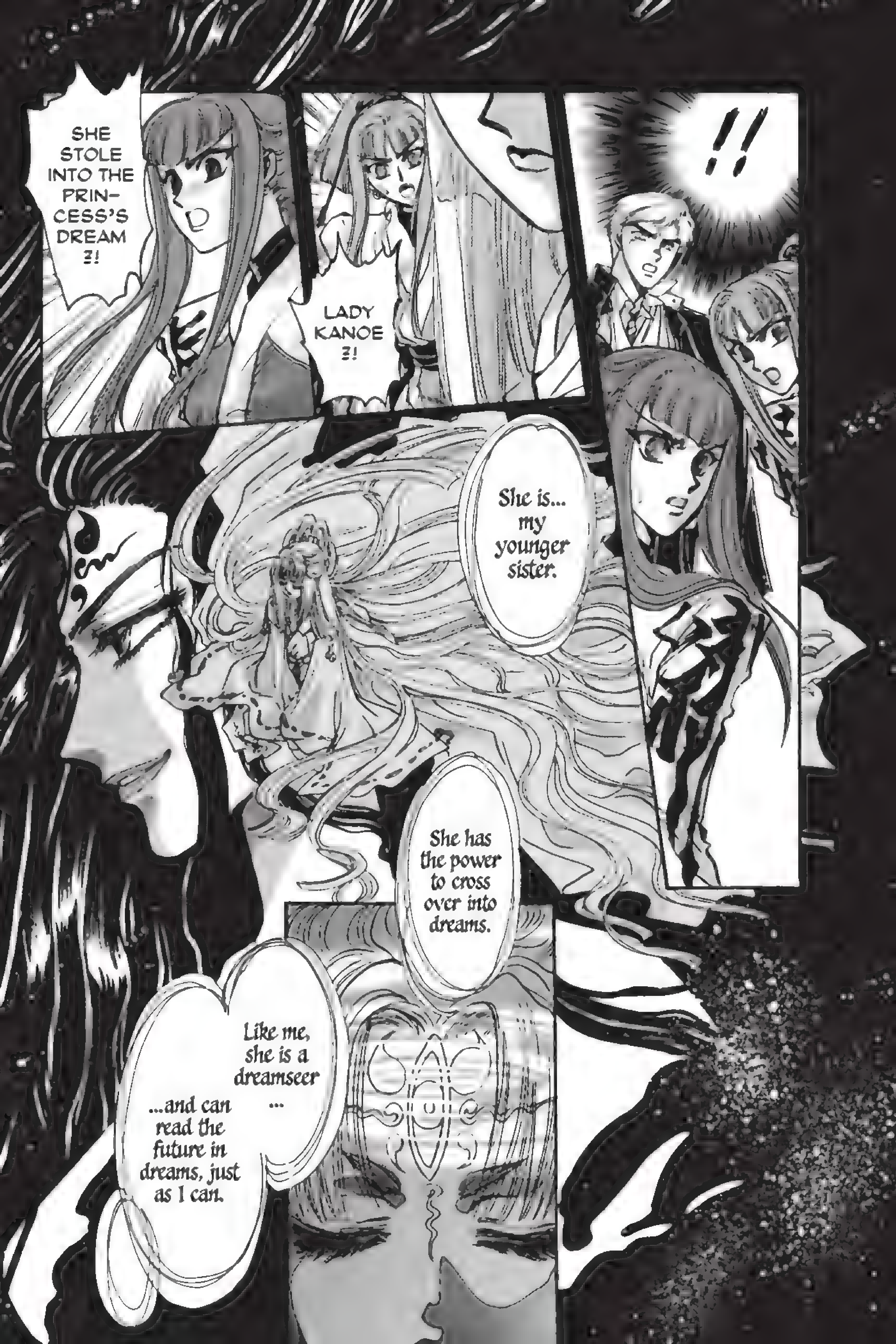

LOOKS LIKE THE EARTHQUAKE'S OVER.
STARE
THAT WASN'T FUN AT ALL, NO SIR.
YOU'RE BLEEDING..
GRAB
UNGH!
?

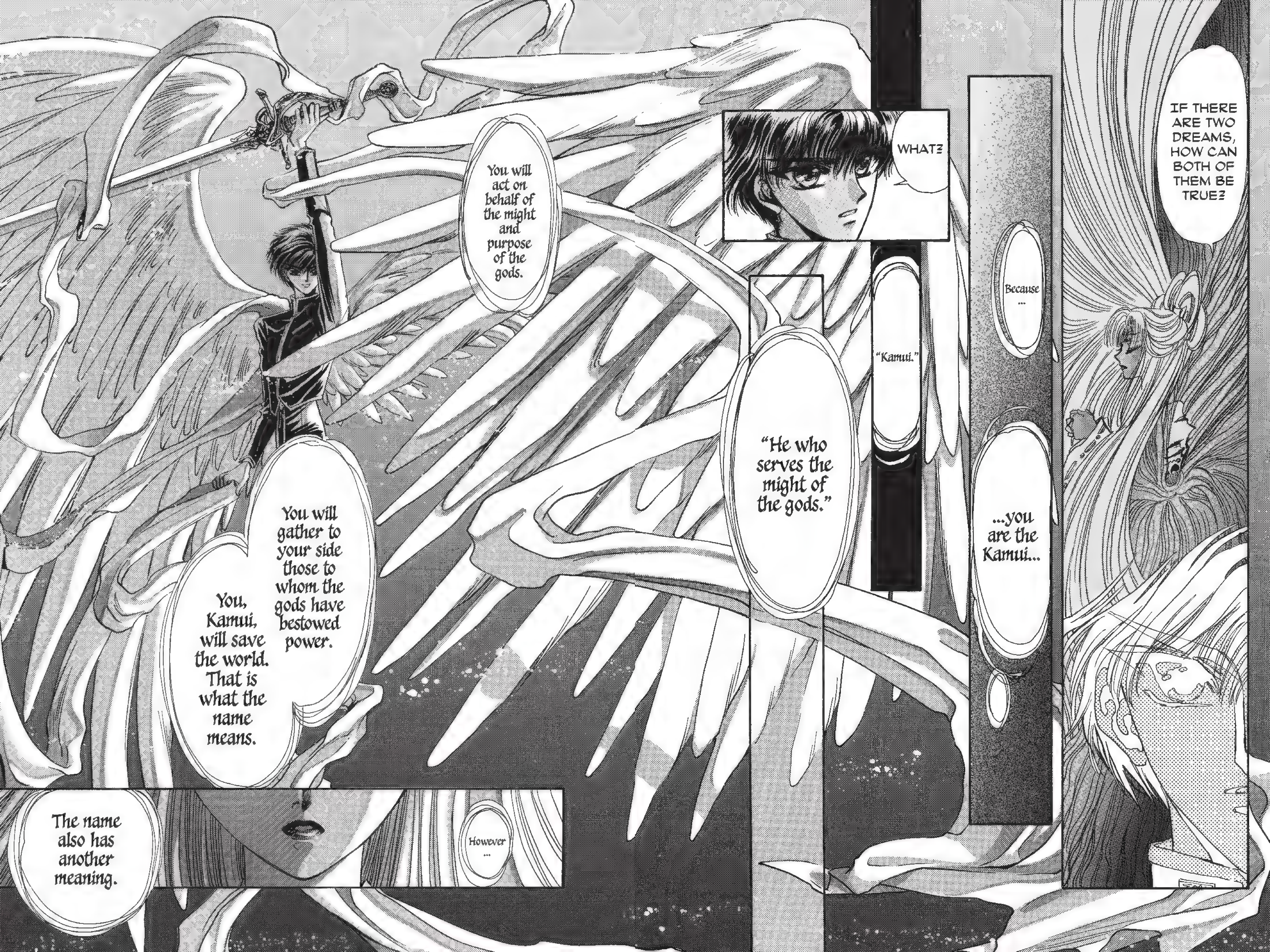

FLAP FLAP
NO PROBLEM! JUST A SCRATCH!
I'LL LICK IT AND IT'LL GET BETTER!
BUT ...
'SIDES ...
YOU'RE THE ONE I CHOSE, SO IT'S FINE!
IT'S NOTHIN', HONEST.
...?

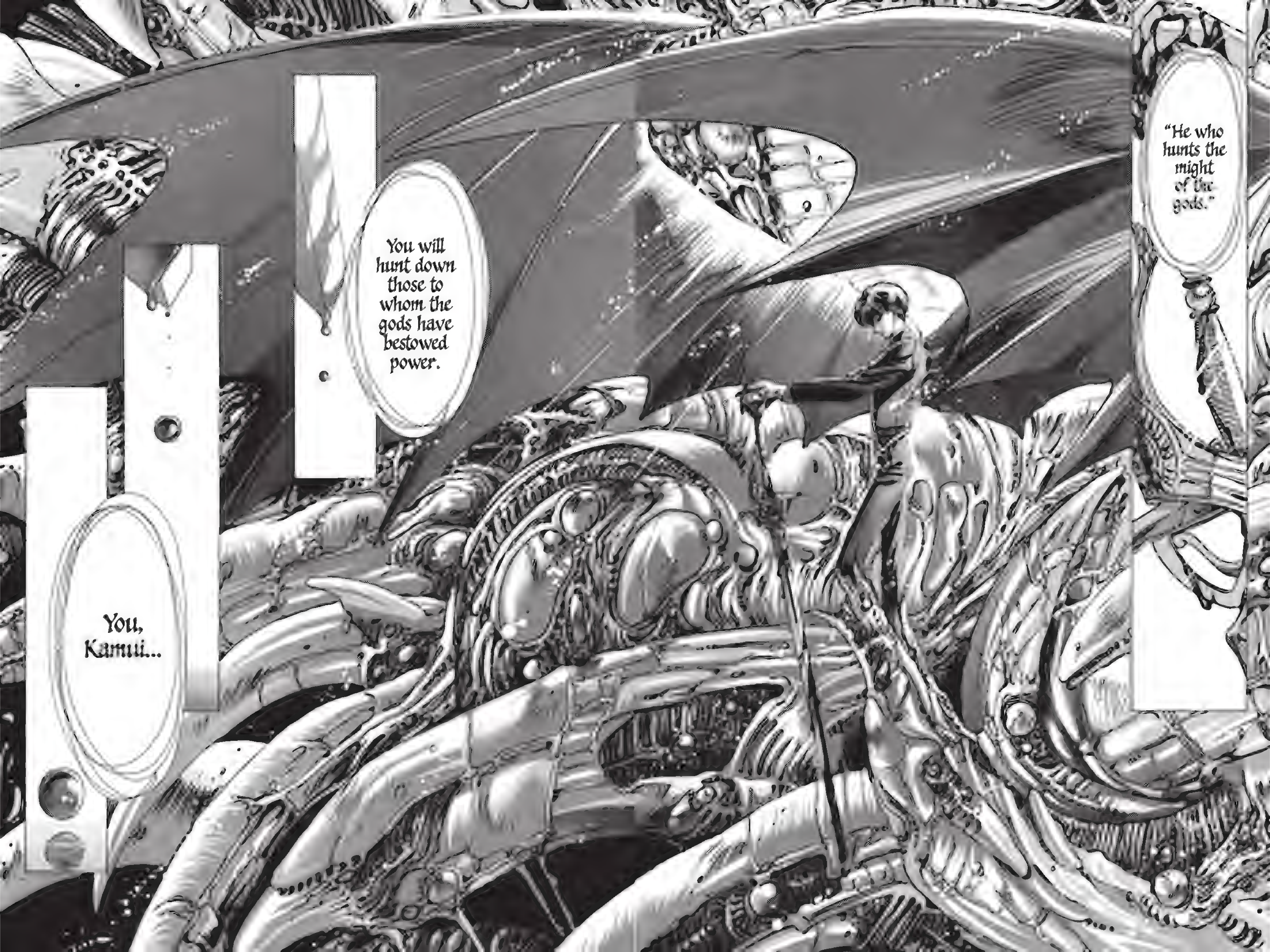

OR MAYBE YOU WANNA LICK IT FOR ME, MISSY?
MRGH
AHA HA HA!
THAT WAS A BIG EARTHQUAKE.
Again...
Another kekkai was destroyed...

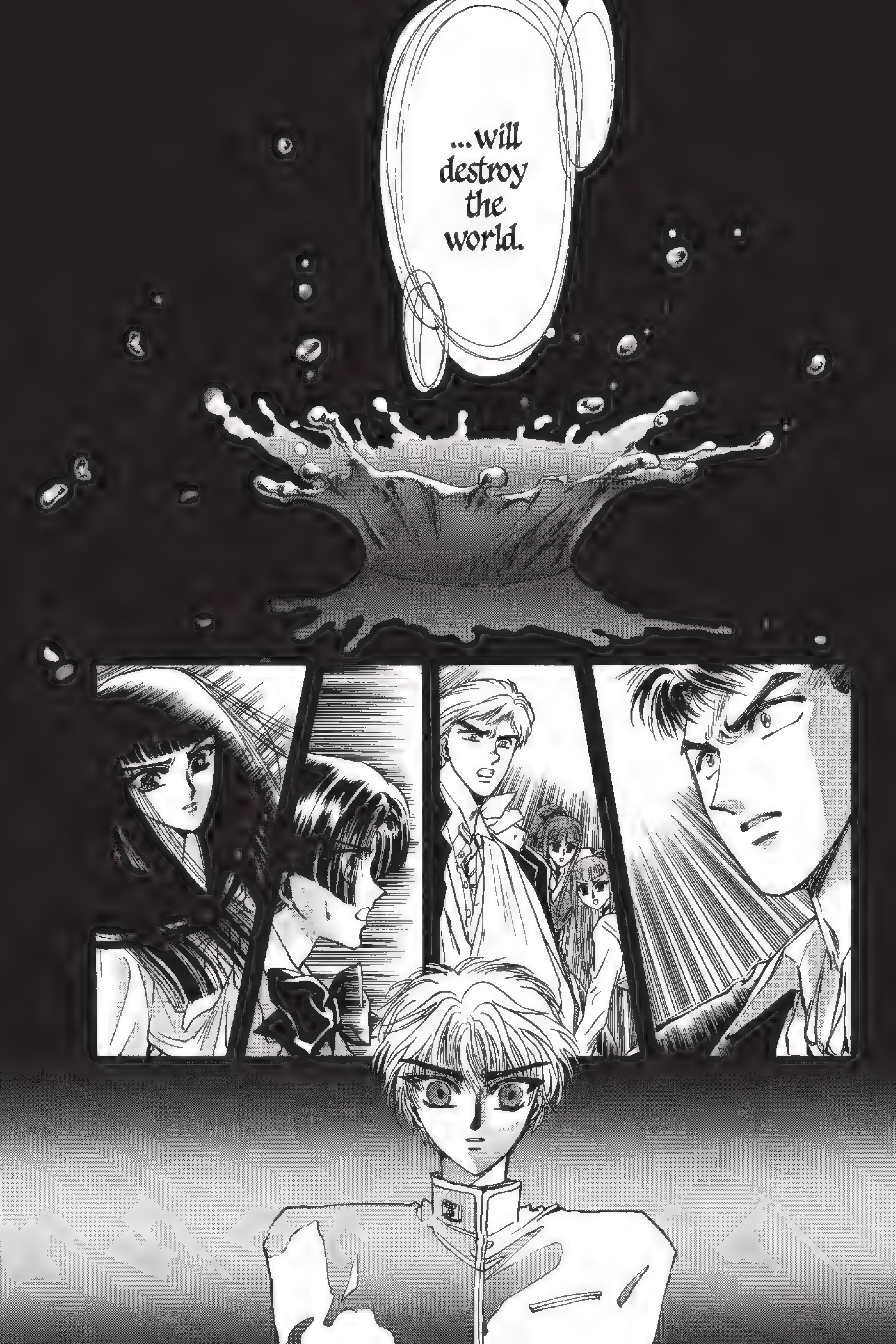

Kamui...
That dream I showed you before was no lie.
That was...
...the truth.
That girl you saw in your dream...
Her death is a reality.

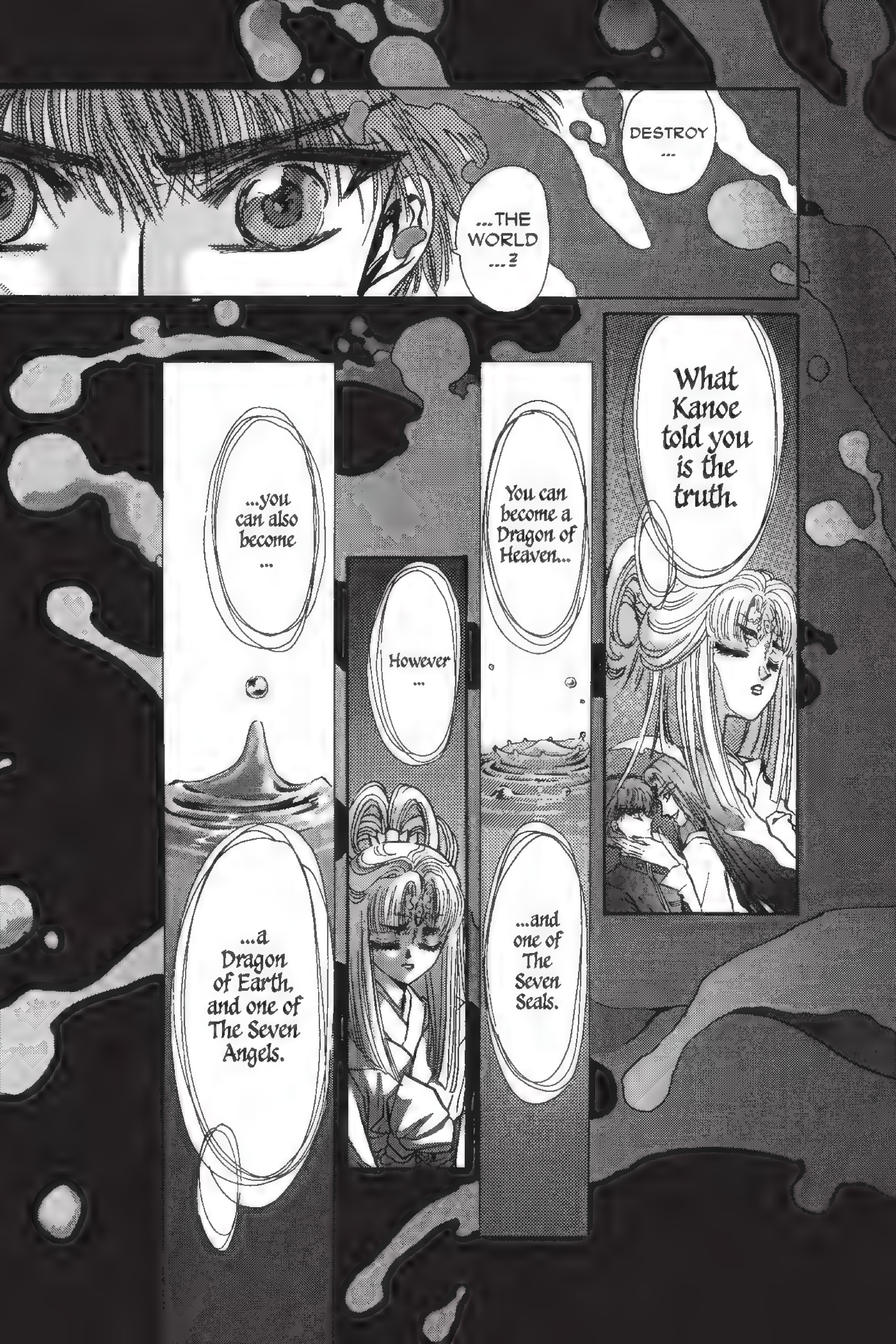

GRIT
However...
...there are other dreams, as Kanoe has shown you.

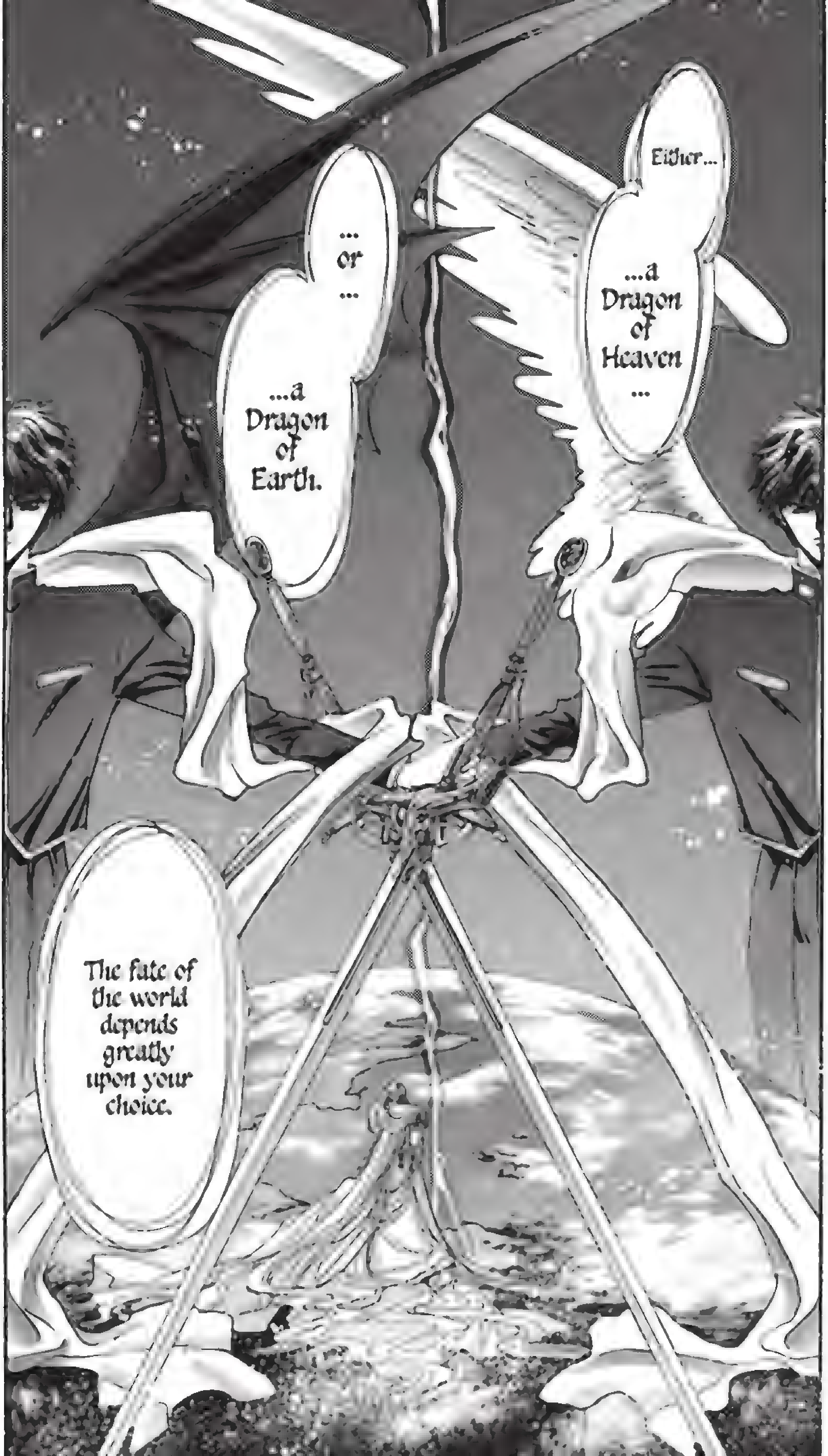

!!
LADY KANOE ?!
SHE STOLE INTO THE PRINCESS'S DREAM ?!
She is... my younger sister.
She has the power to cross over into dreams.
Like me, she is a dreamseer ...
...and can read the future in dreams, just as I can.

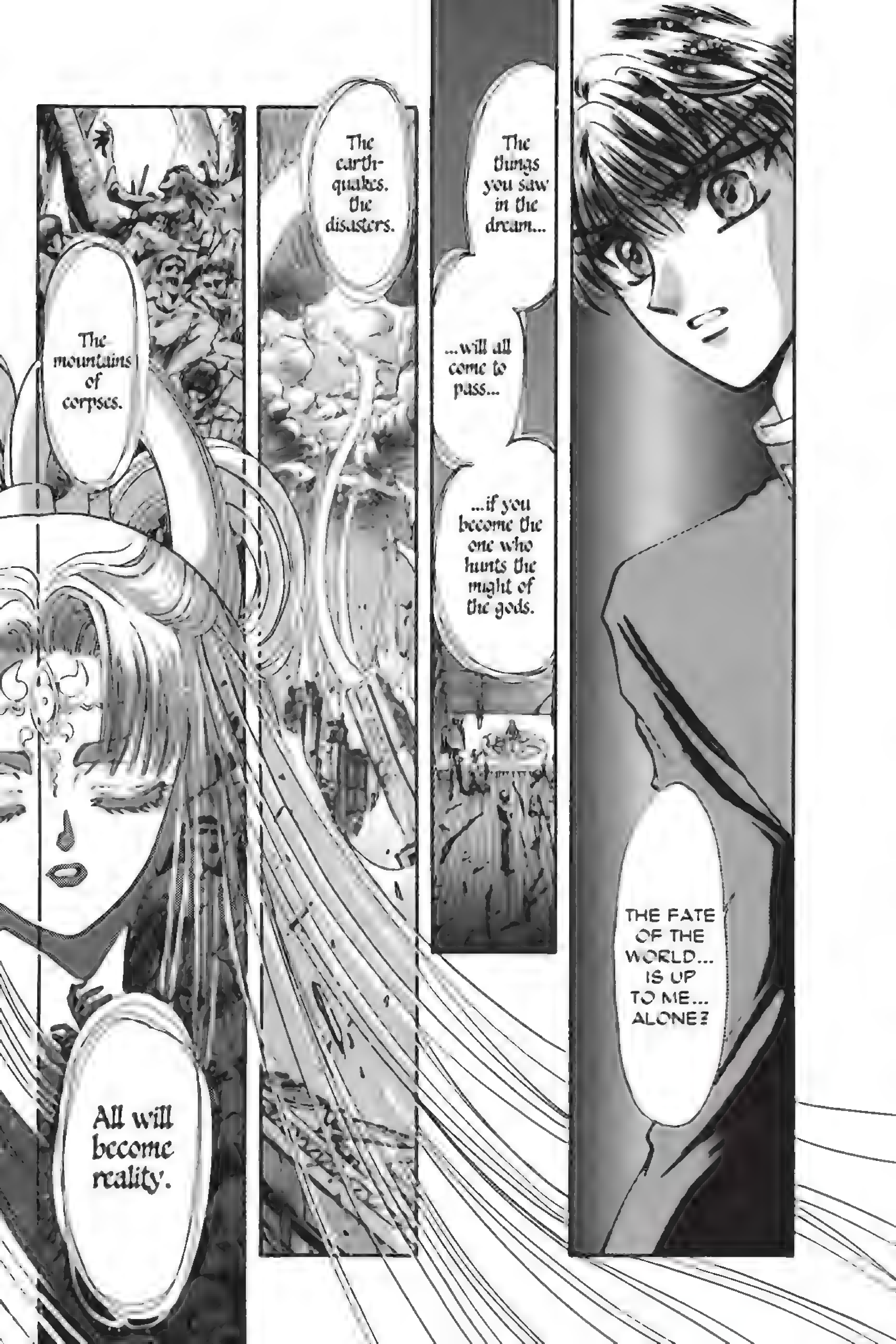

IF THERE ARE TWO DREAMS, HOW CAN BOTH OF THEM BE TRUE?
Because ...
...you are the Kamui...
WHAT?
“Kamui.”
“He who serves the might of the gods.”
You will act on behalf of the might and purpose of the gods.
You will gather to your side those to whom the gods have bestowed power.
You, Kamui, will save the world. That is what the name means.
However ...
The name also has another meaning.

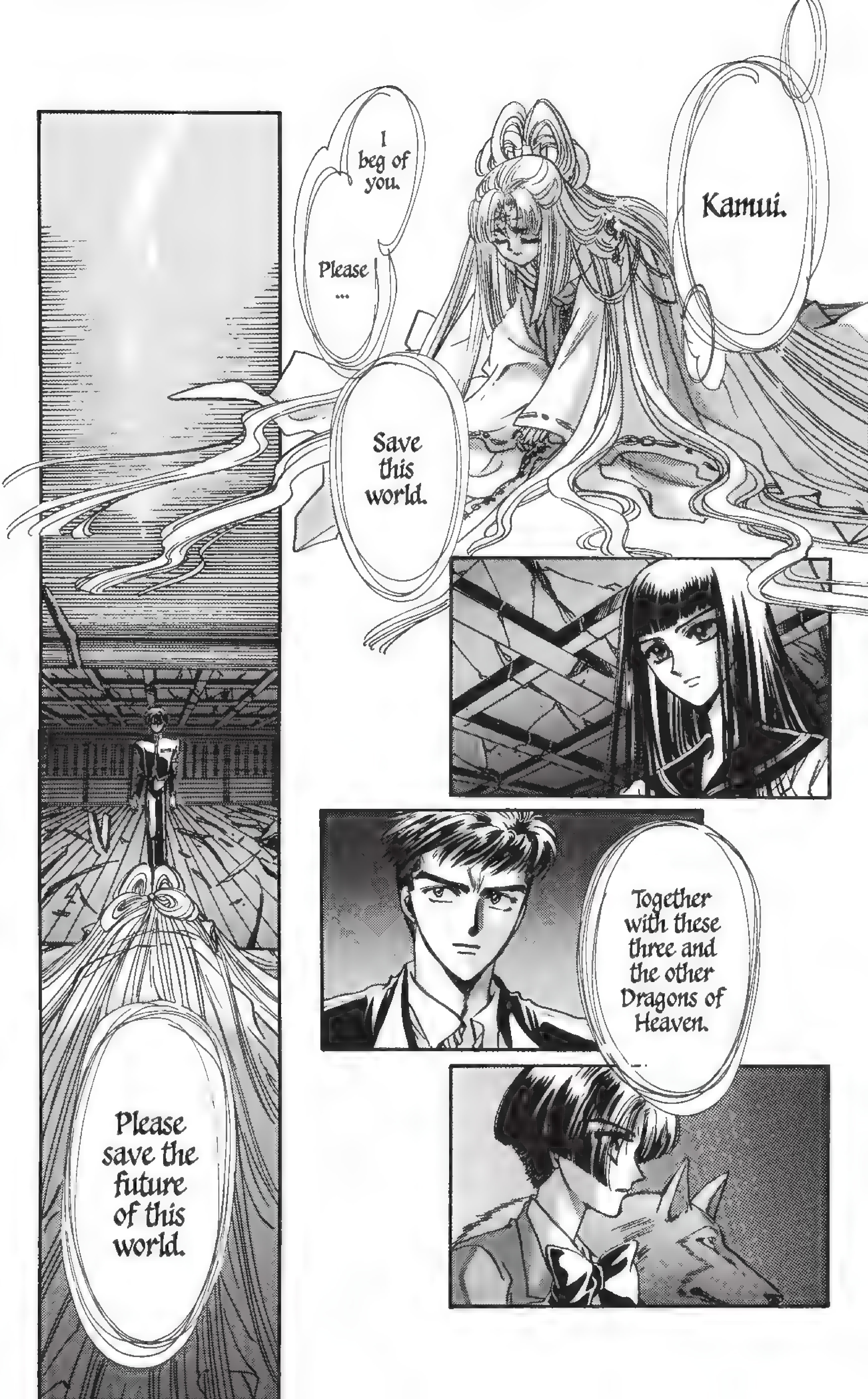

"He who hunts the might of the gods."
You will hunt down those to whom the gods have bestowed power.
You, Kamui...

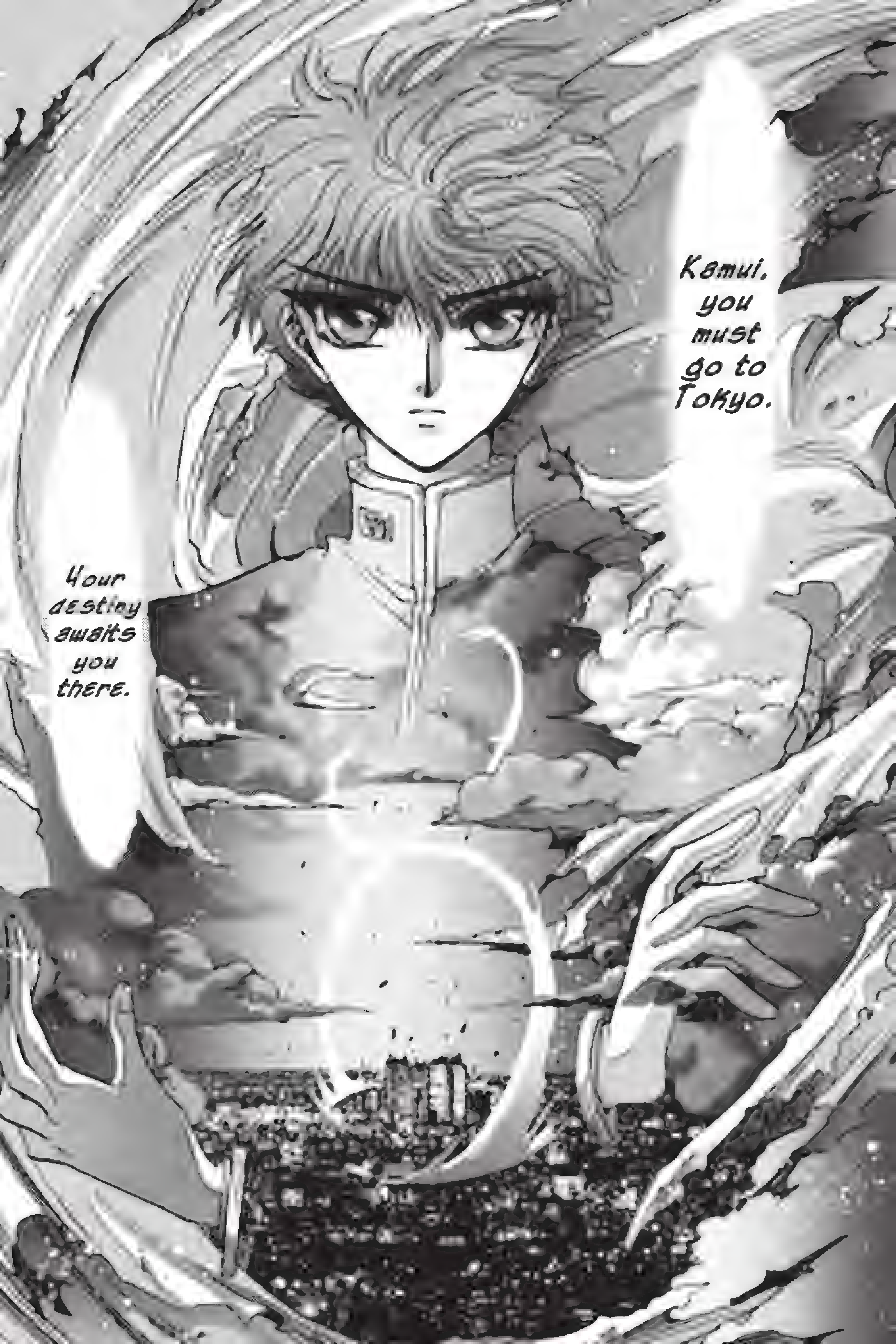

...will destroy the world.

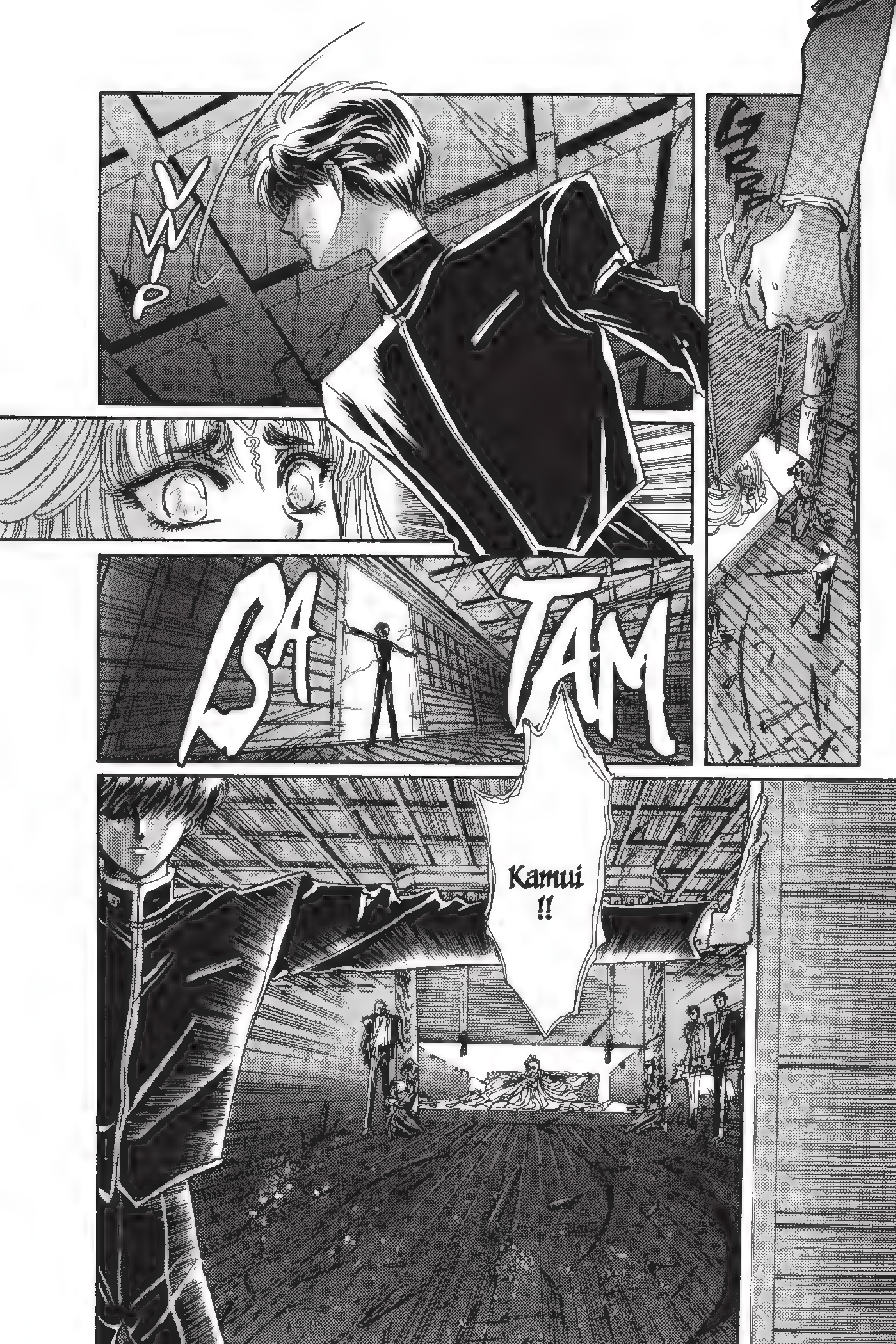

DESTROY ...
...THE WORLD ...?
What Kanoe told you is the truth.
You can become a Dragon of Heaven...
...and one of The Seven Seals.
However ...
...you can also become ...
...a Dragon of Earth, and one of The Seven Angels.

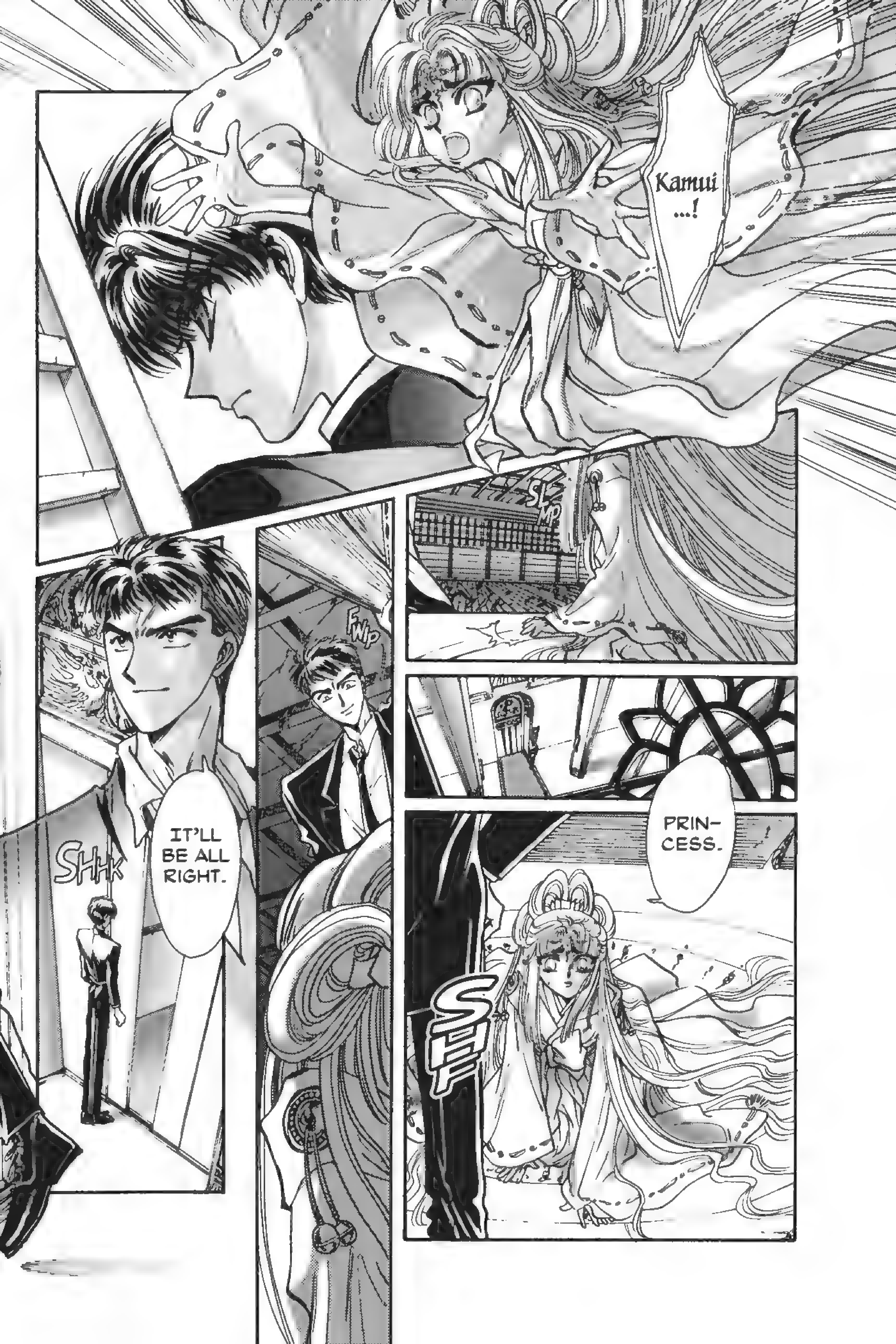

Either...
...a Dragon of Heaven...
...or...
...a Dragon of Earth.
The fate of the world depends greatly upon your choice.

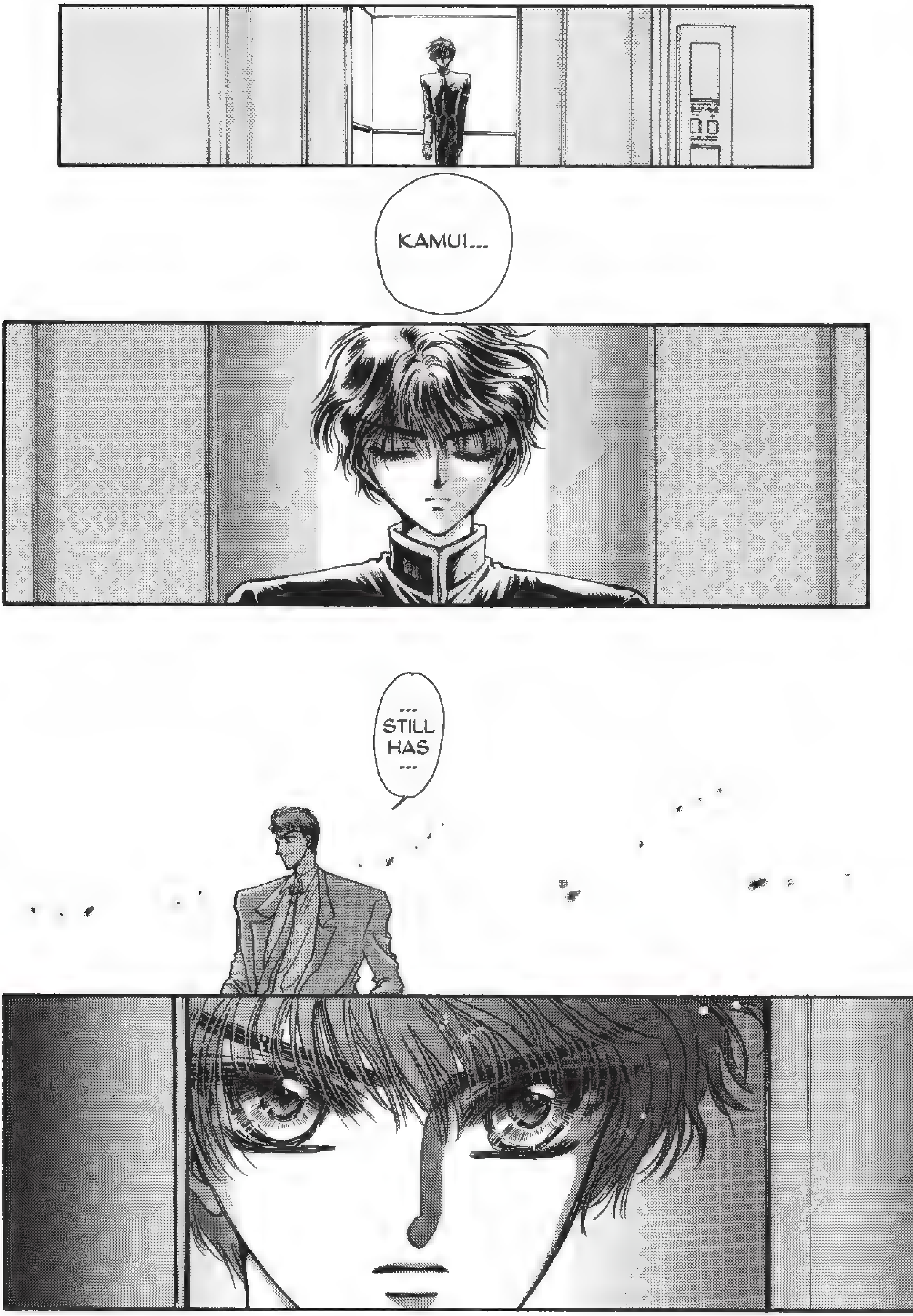

The things you saw in the dream...
...will all come to pass...
...if you become the one who hunts the might of the gods.
The earthquakes. the disasters.
The mountains of corpses.
All will become reality.
THE FATE OF THE WORLD... IS UP TO ME... ALONE?

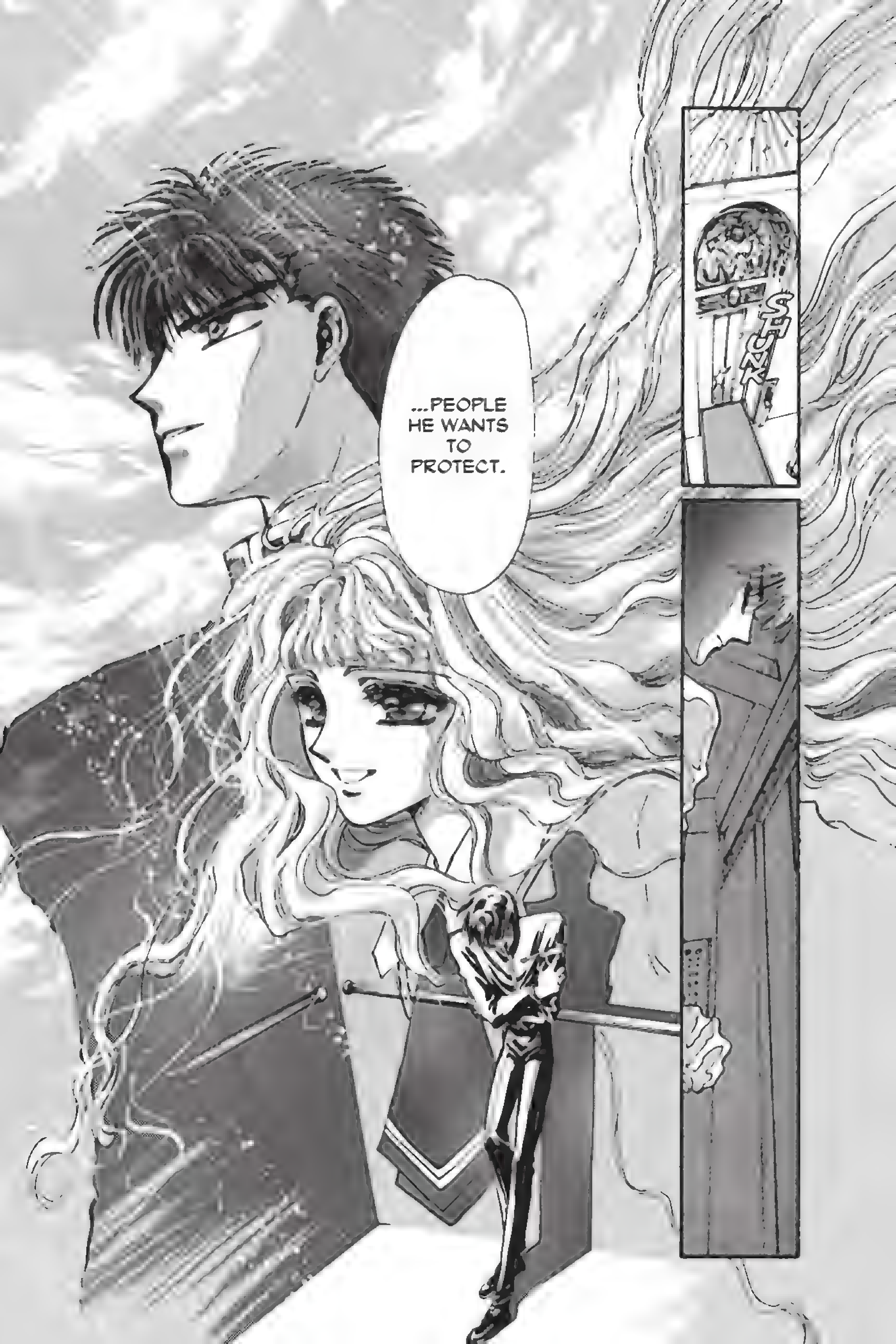

Kamui.
I beg of you.
Please ...
Save this world.
Together with these three and the other Dragons of Heaven.
Please save the future of this world.

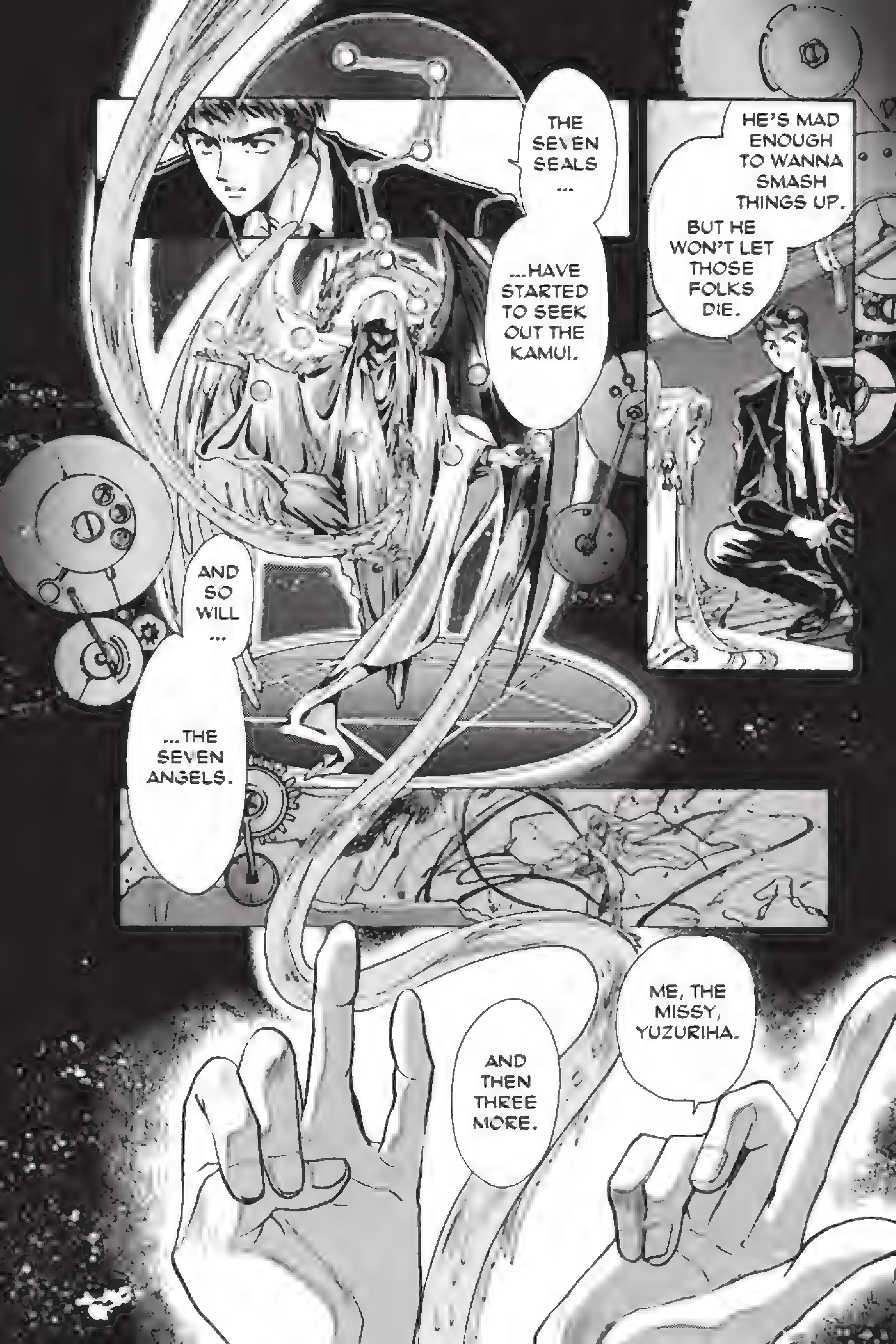

Kamui, you must go to Tokyo.
Your destiny awaits you there.

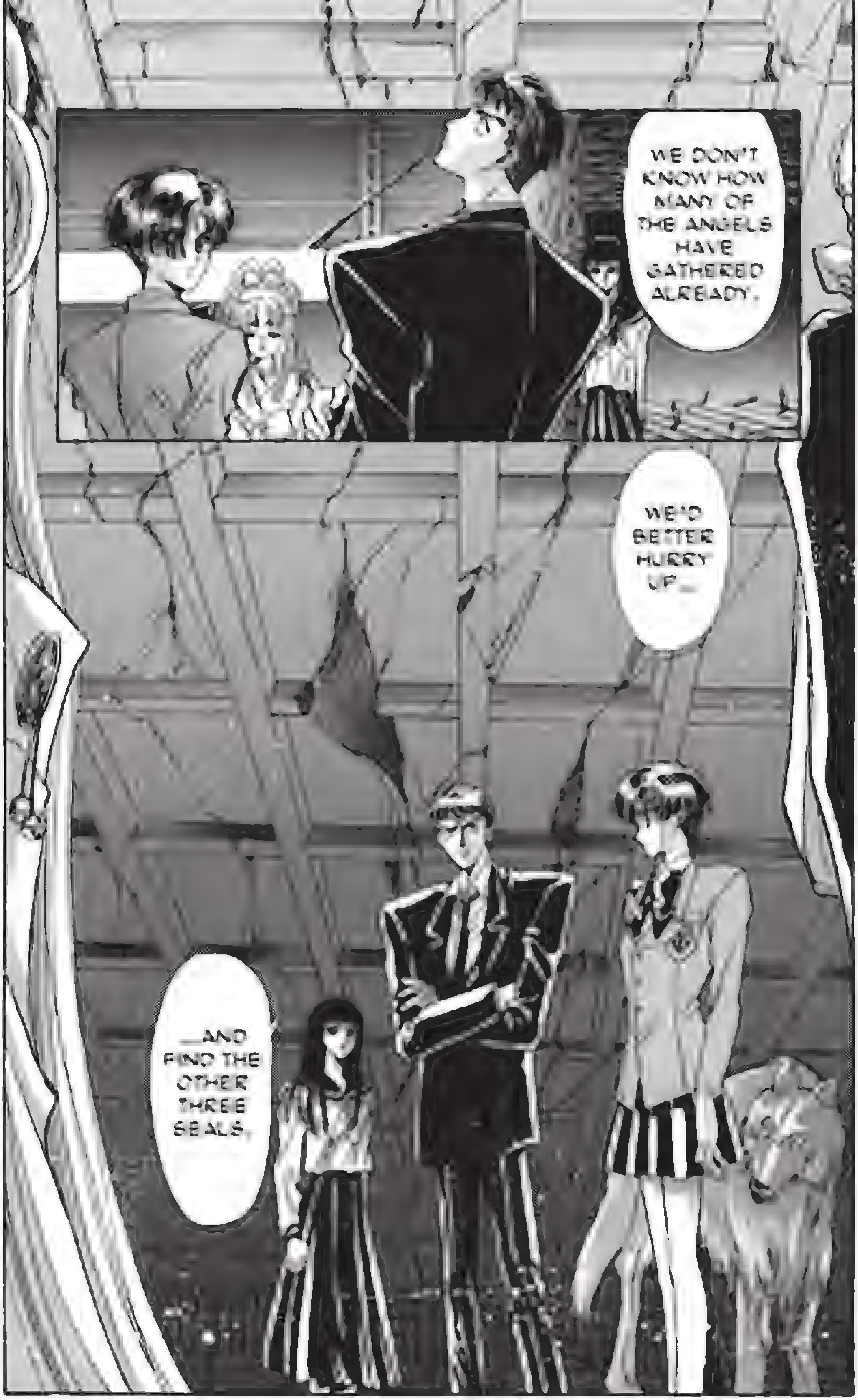

VWIP
BA TAM
Kamui !!

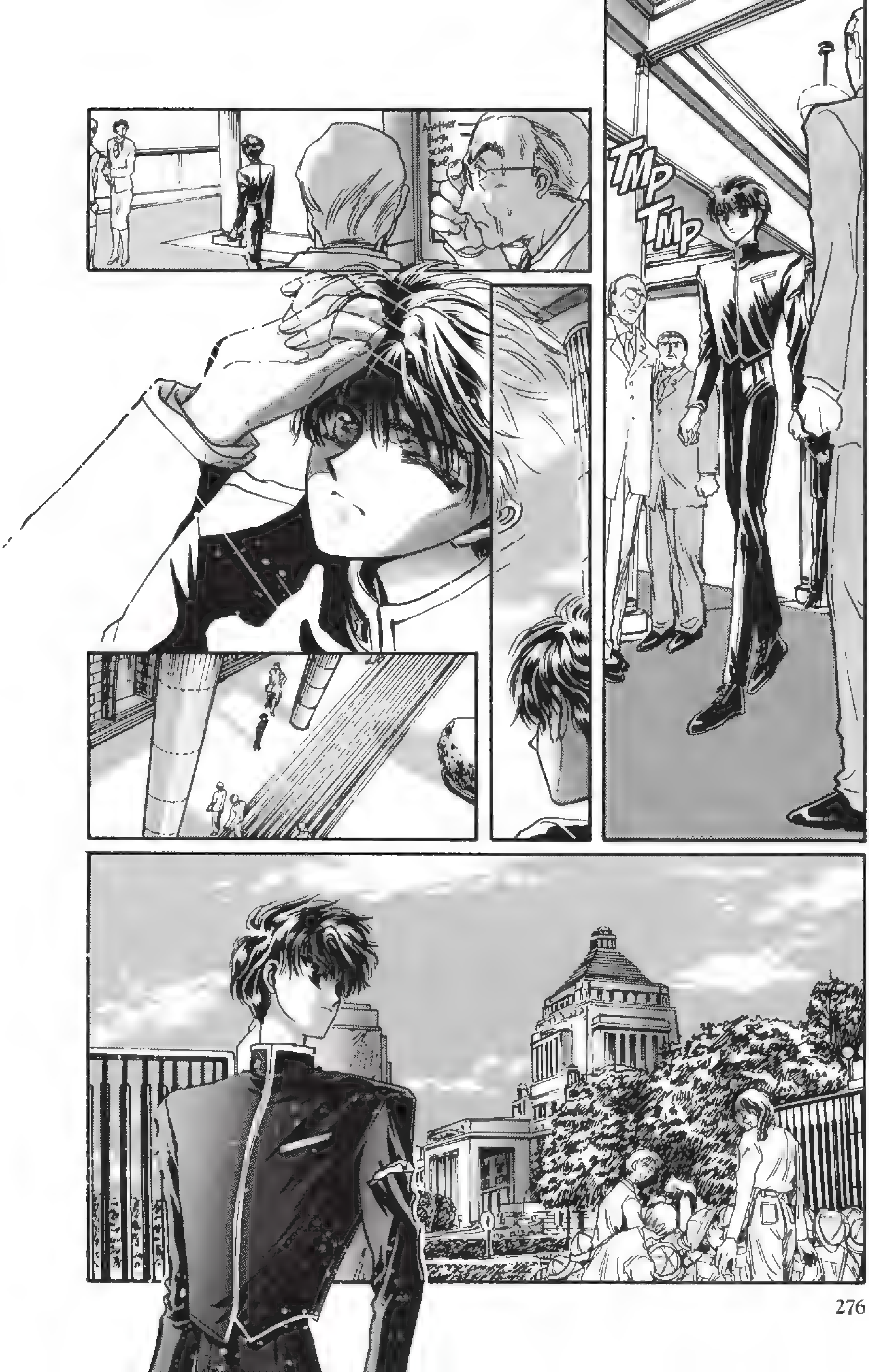

Kamui ...!
SLMP
FWIP
PRIN- CESS.
SHHK
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
SHFF

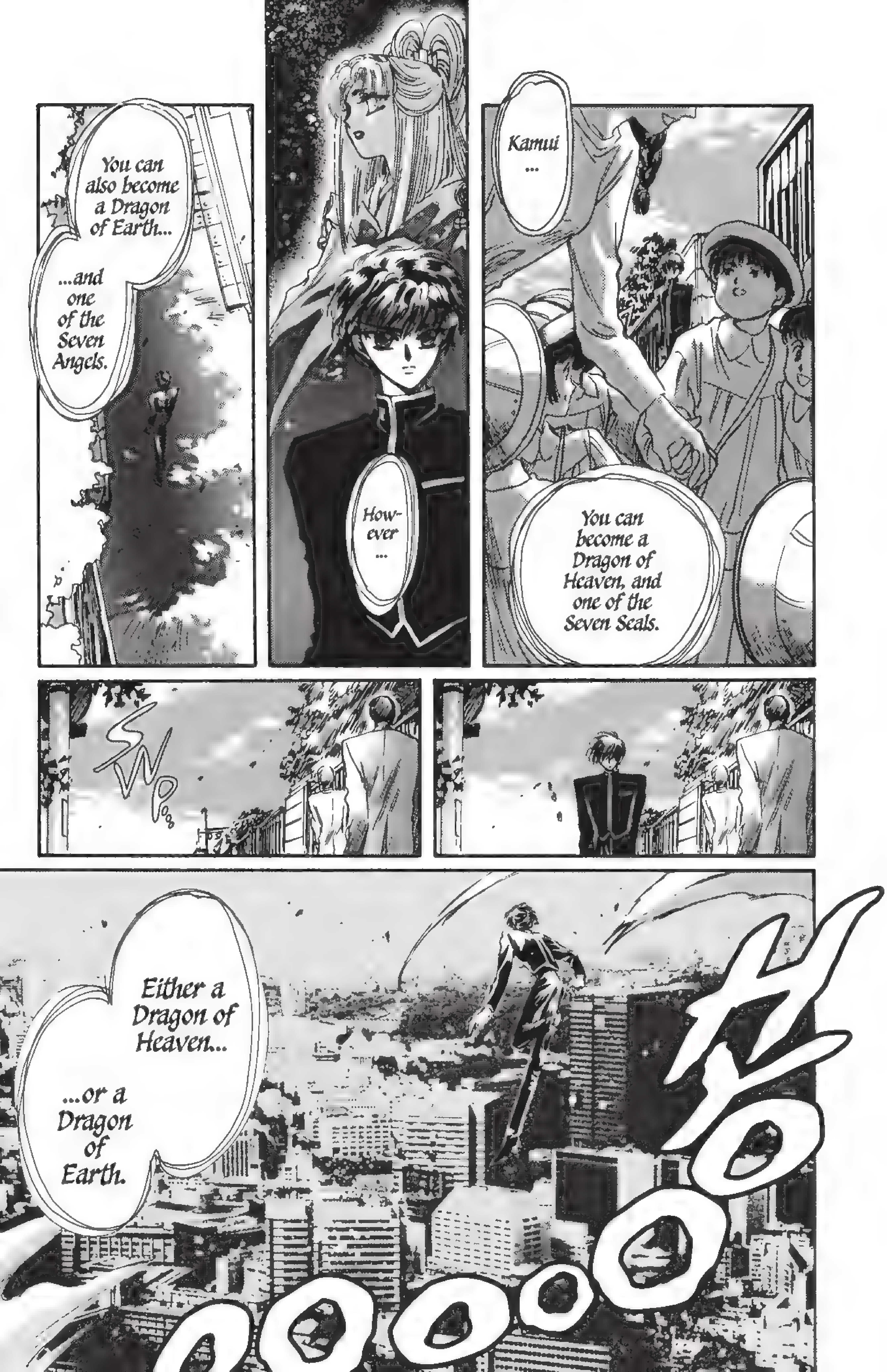

KAMUI...
...STILL HAS...

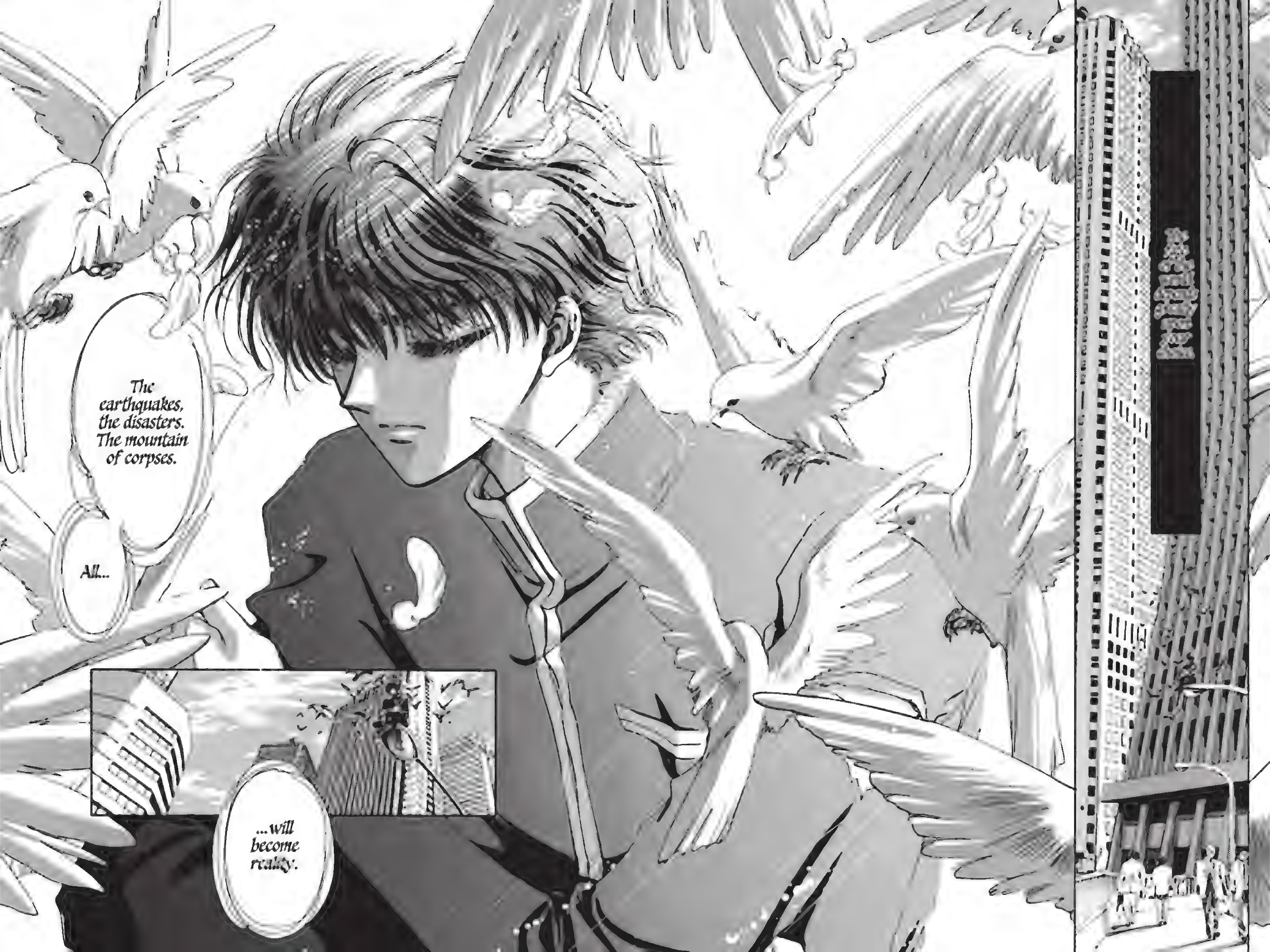

SHUNK
...PEOPLE HE WANTS TO PROTECT.

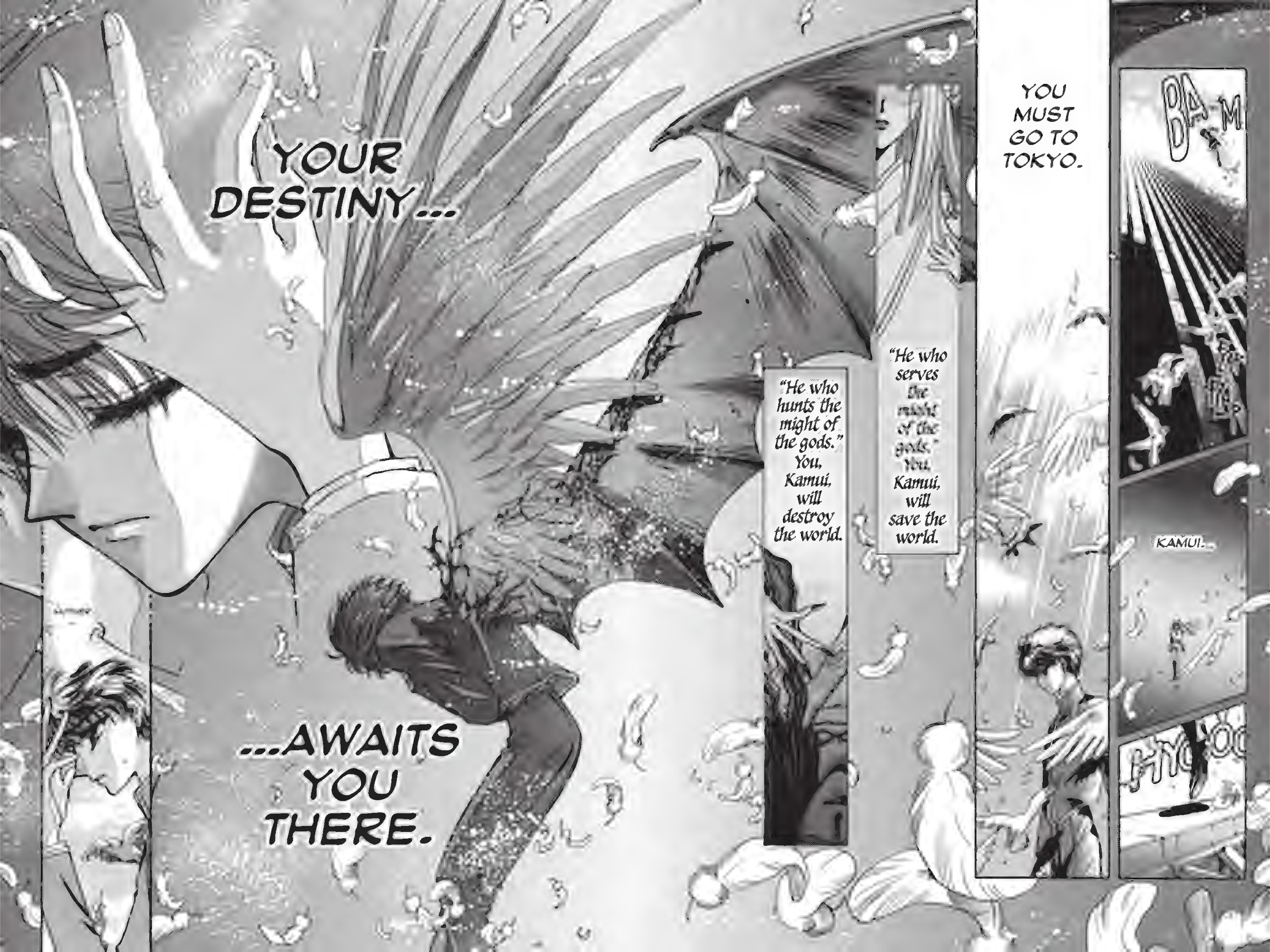

HE'S MAD ENOUGH TO WANNA SMASH THINGS UP.
BUT HE WON'T LET THOSE FOLKS DIE.
THE SEVEN SEALS ...
...HAVE STARTED TO SEEK OUT THE KAMUI.
AND SO WILL ...
...THE SEVEN ANGELS.
ME, THE MISSY, YUZURIHA.
AND THEN THREE MORE.

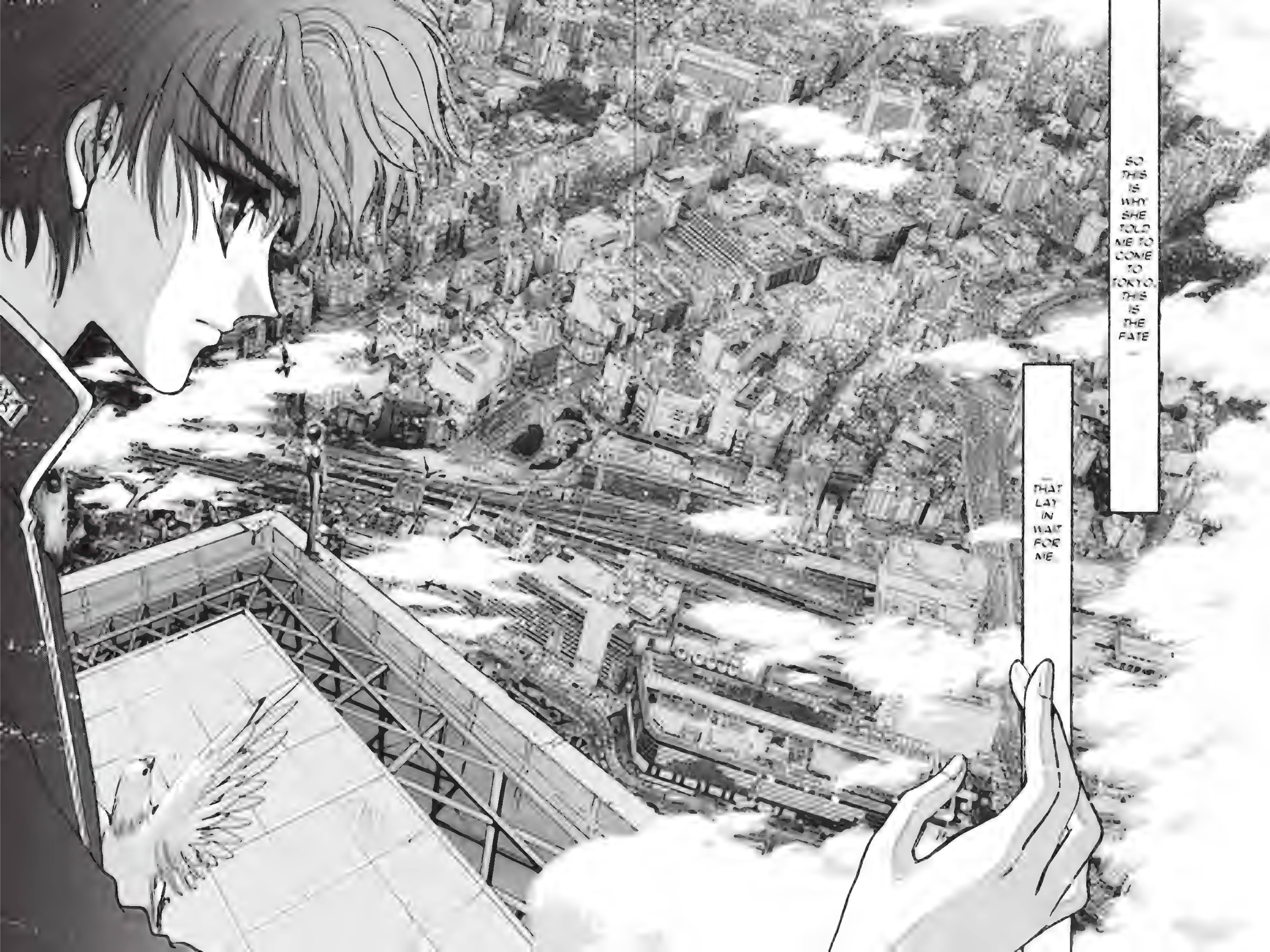

WE DON'T KNOW HOW MANY OF THE ANGELS HAVE GATHERED ALREADY.
WE'D BETTER HURRY UP...
...AND FIND THE OTHER THREE SEALS.

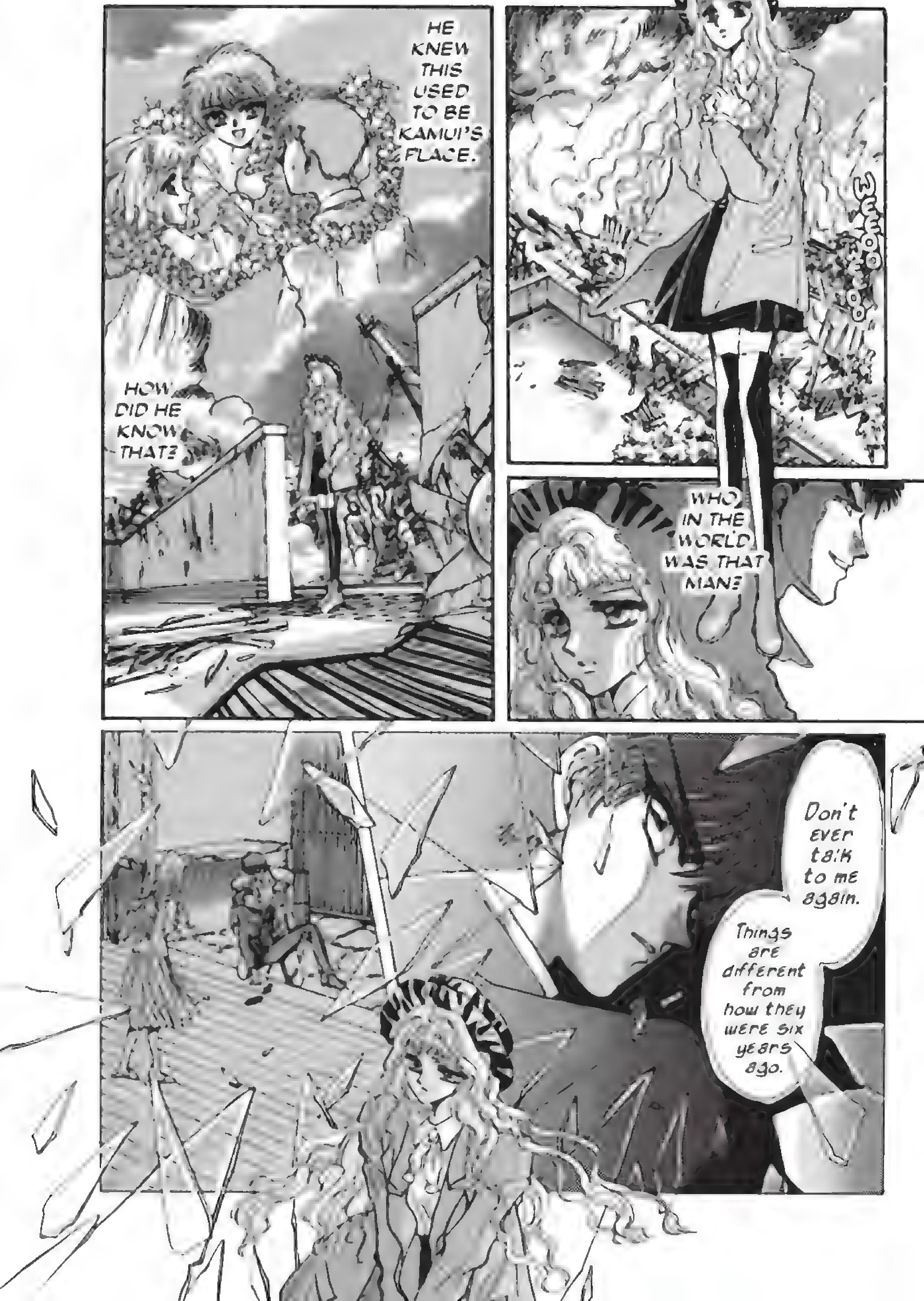

TMP TMP
Another high school rule

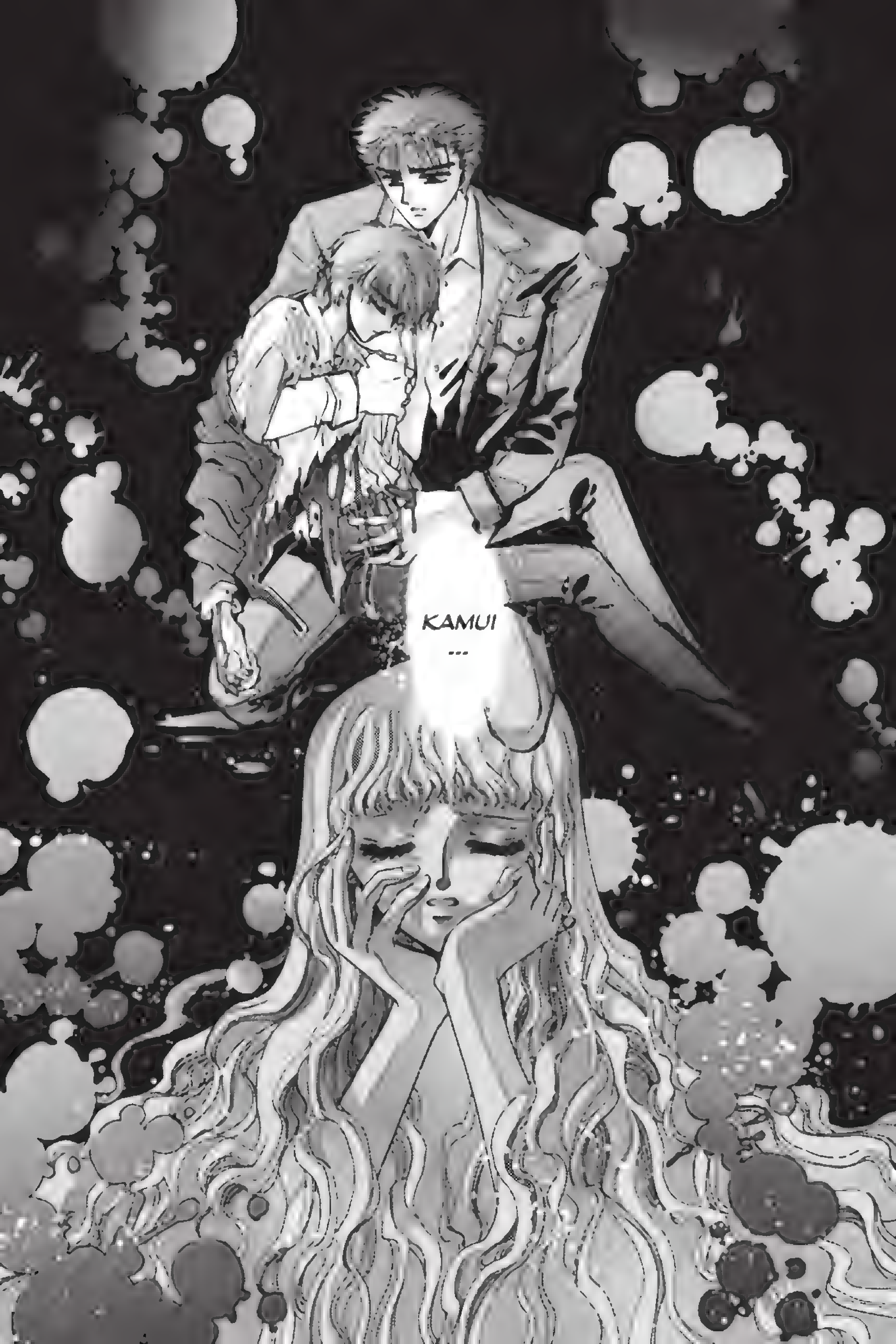

Kamui ...
You can become a Dragon of Heaven, and one of the Seven Seals.
However ...
You can also become a Dragon of Earth...
...and one of the Seven Angels.
SWP
Either a Dragon of Heaven...
...or a Dragon of Earth.
HYOOOOO

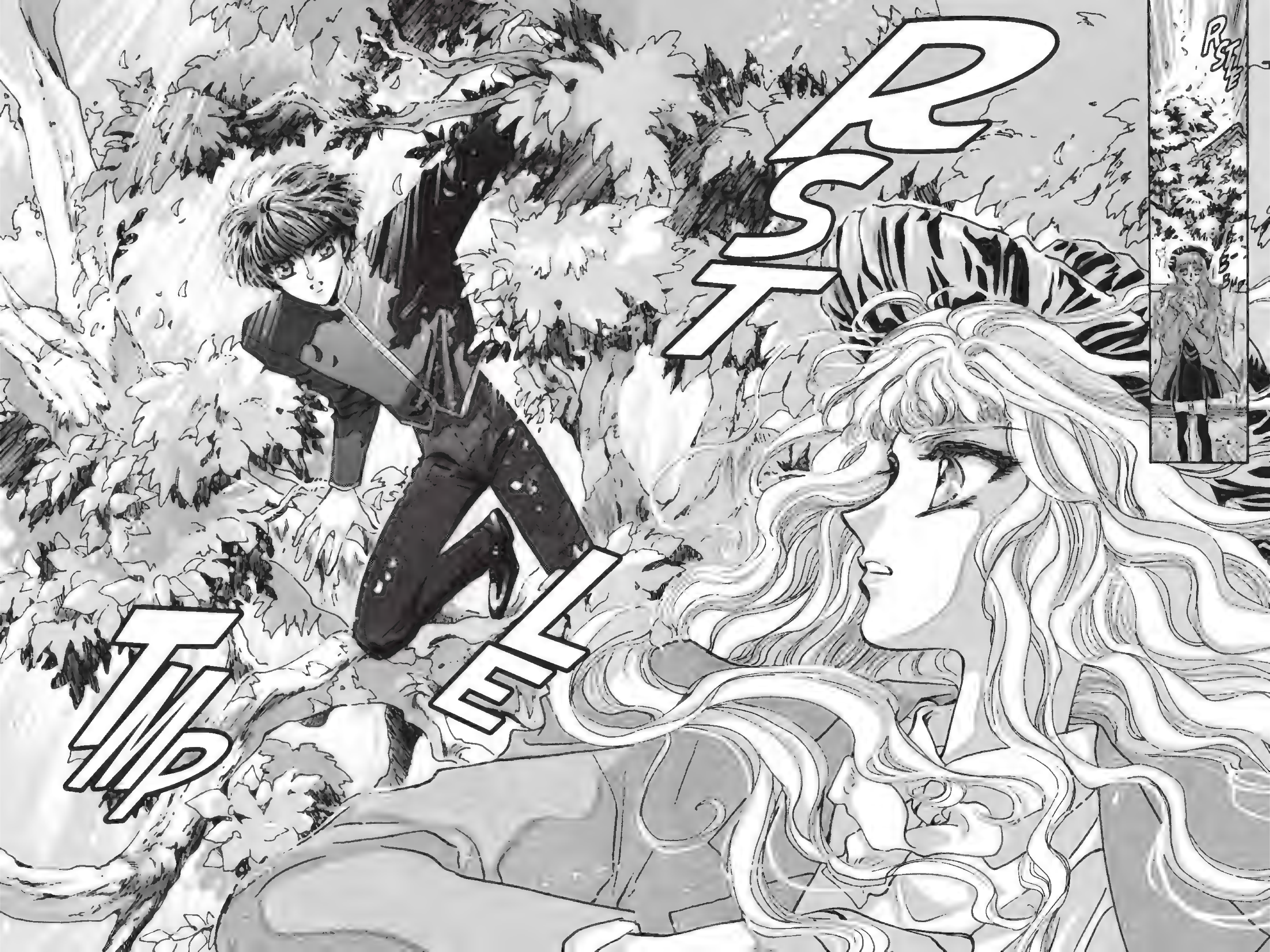

The earthquakes, the disasters. The mountain of corpses.
All...
...will become reality.

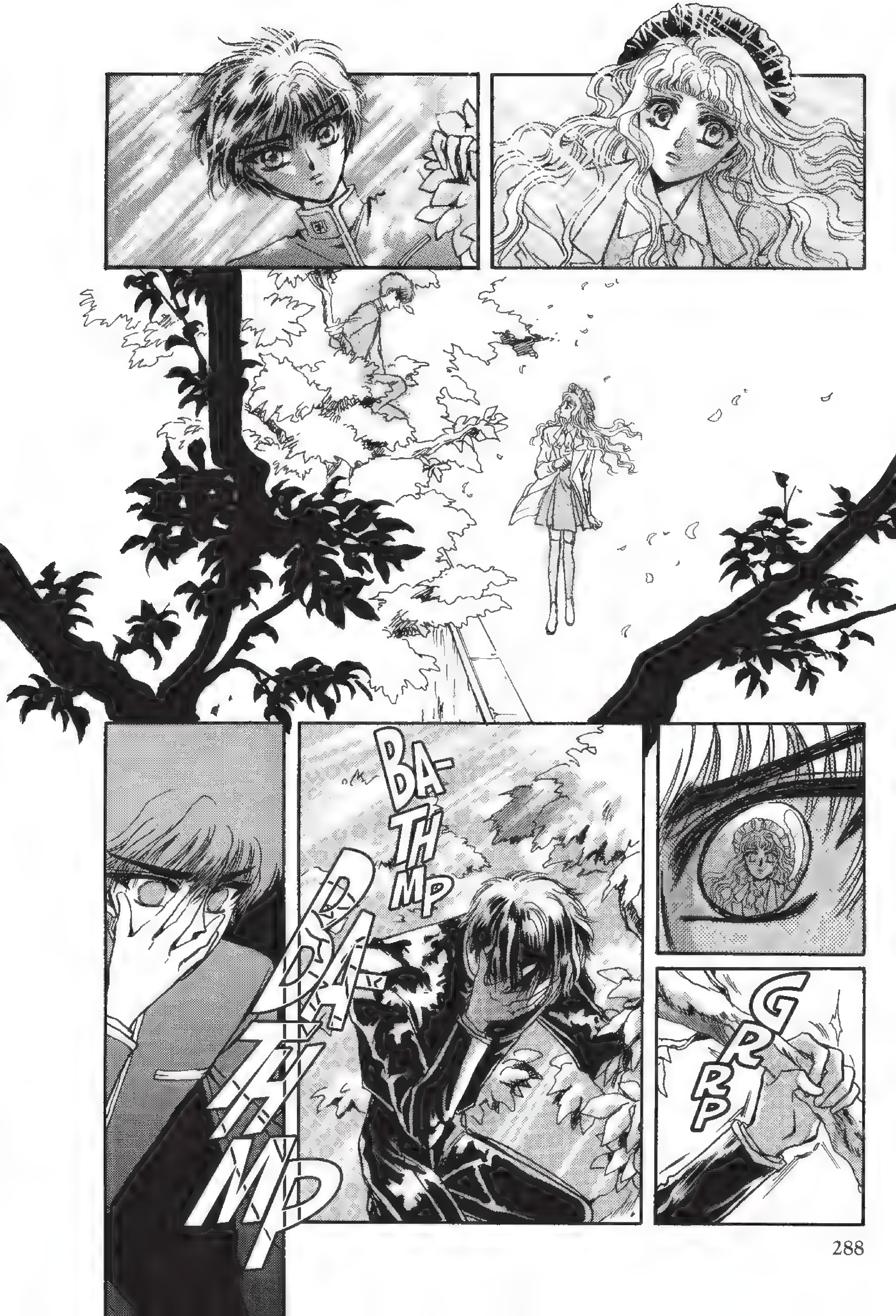

BA-M
KAMUI!
HYOO
YOU MUST GO TO TOKYO.
"He who serves the might of the gods." You, Kamui, will save the world.
"He who hunts the might of the gods." You, Kamui, will destroy the world.
YOUR DESTINY...
...AWAITS YOU THERE.

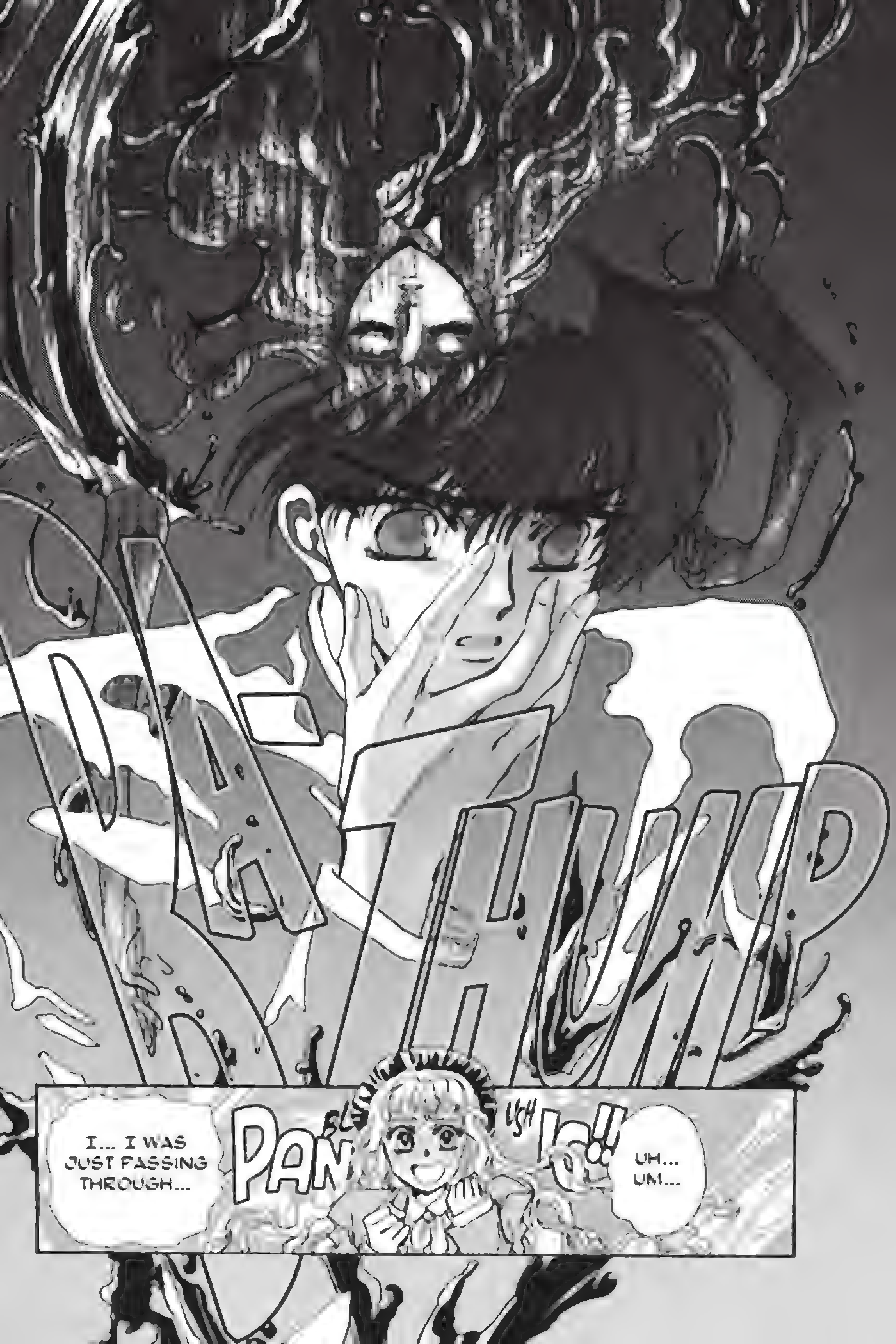

SO THIS IS WHY SHE TOLD ME TO COME TO TOKYO. THIS IS THE FATE —
— THAT LAY IN WAIT FOR ME

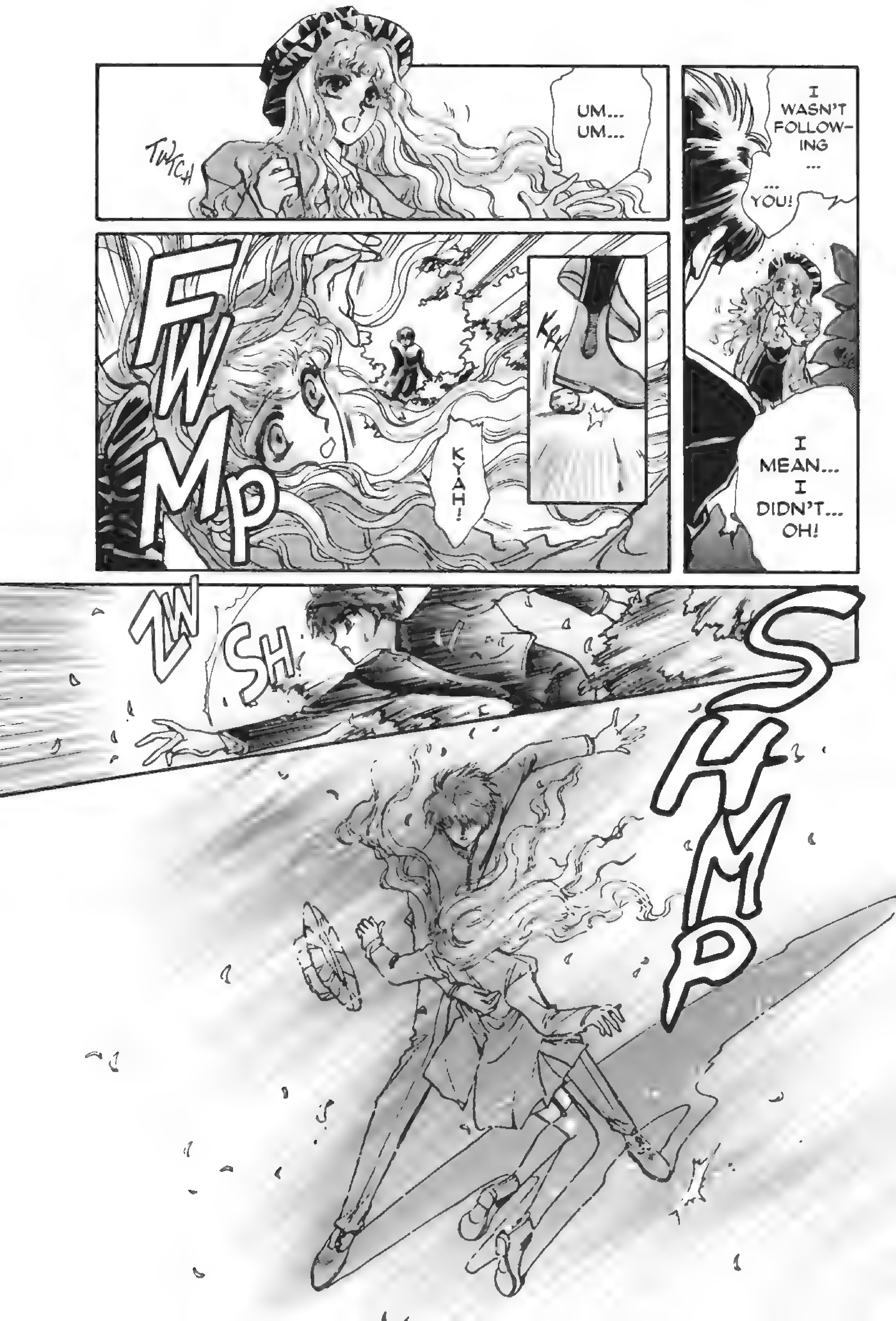

HE KNEW THIS USED TO BE KAMUI'S PLACE.
HOW DID HE KNOW THAT?
WHOO WHOO
WHO IN THE WORLD WAS THAT MAN?
Don't ever talk to me again.
Things are different from how they were six years ago.

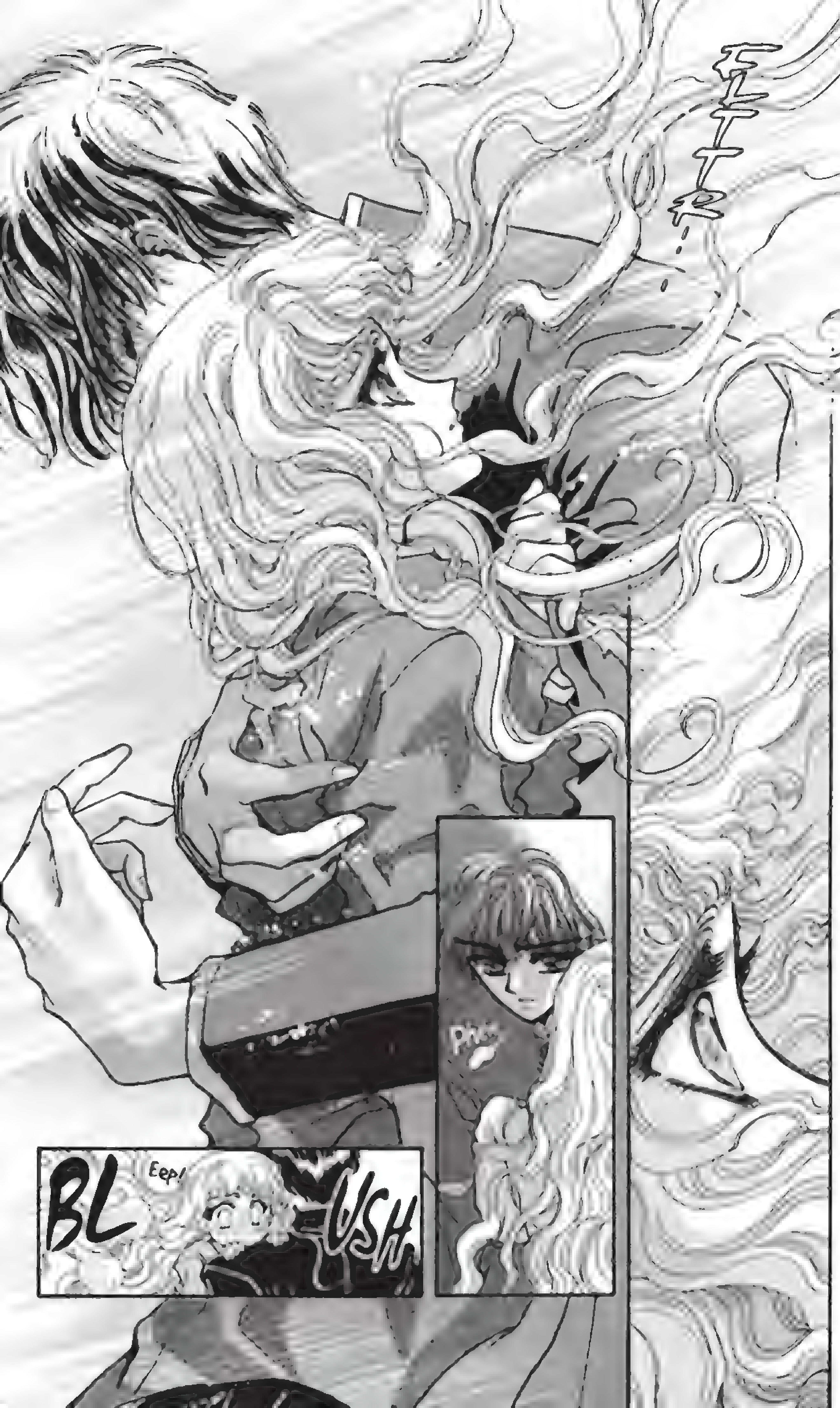

KAMUI
...

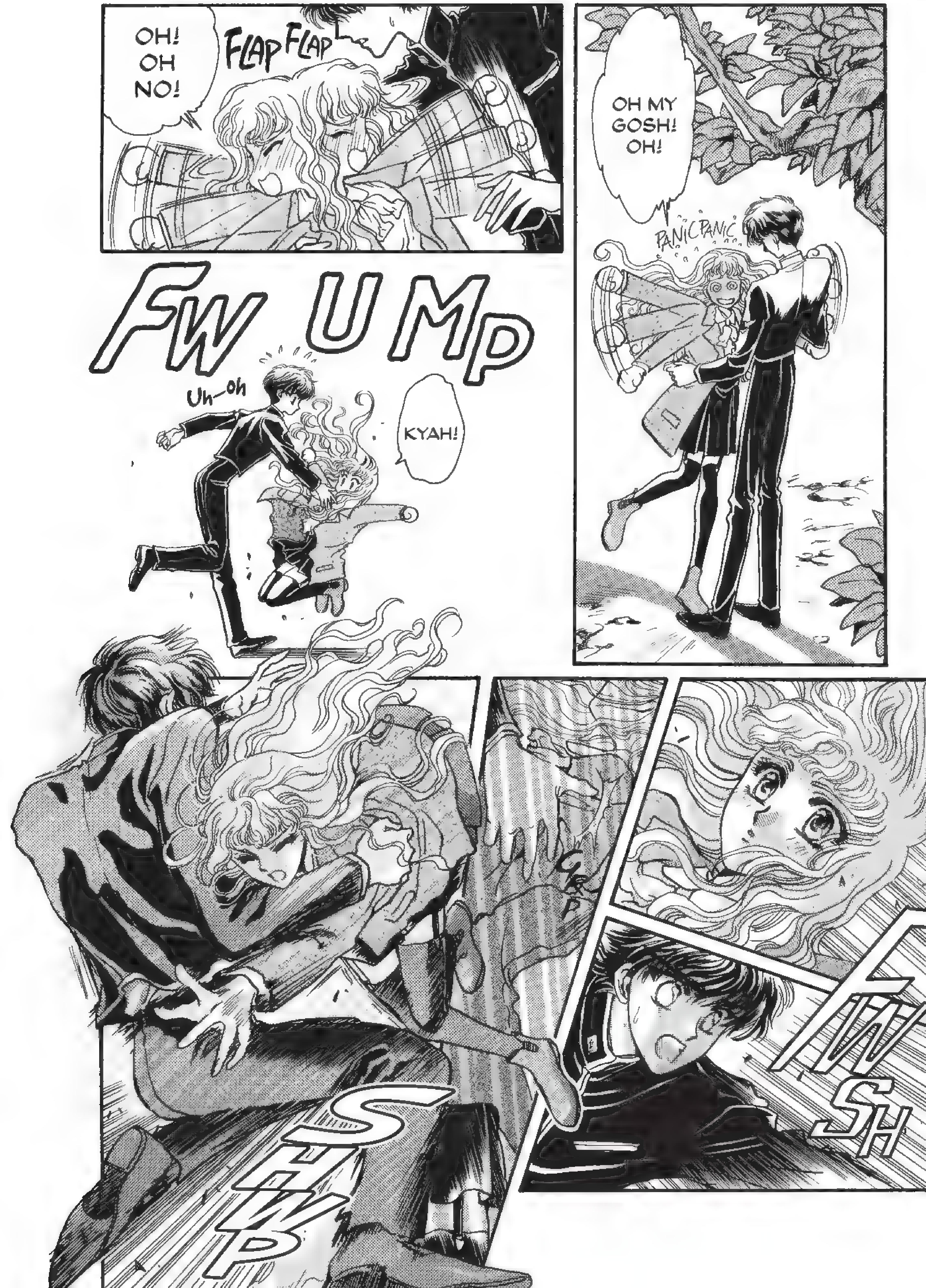

RSTLE
B-BMP
RSTLE
THMP

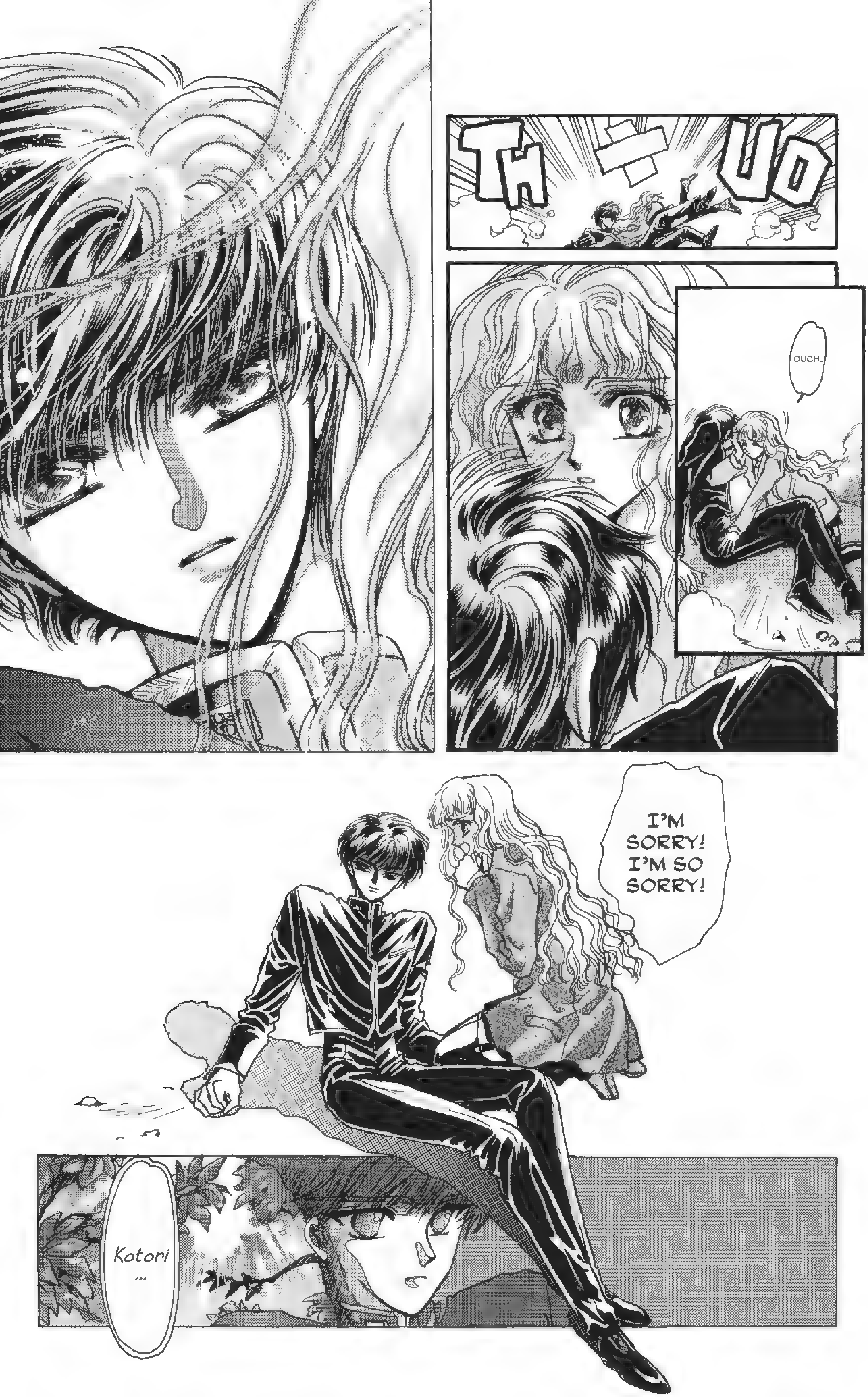

GRRP
BA-THMP
DA-DA-THMP

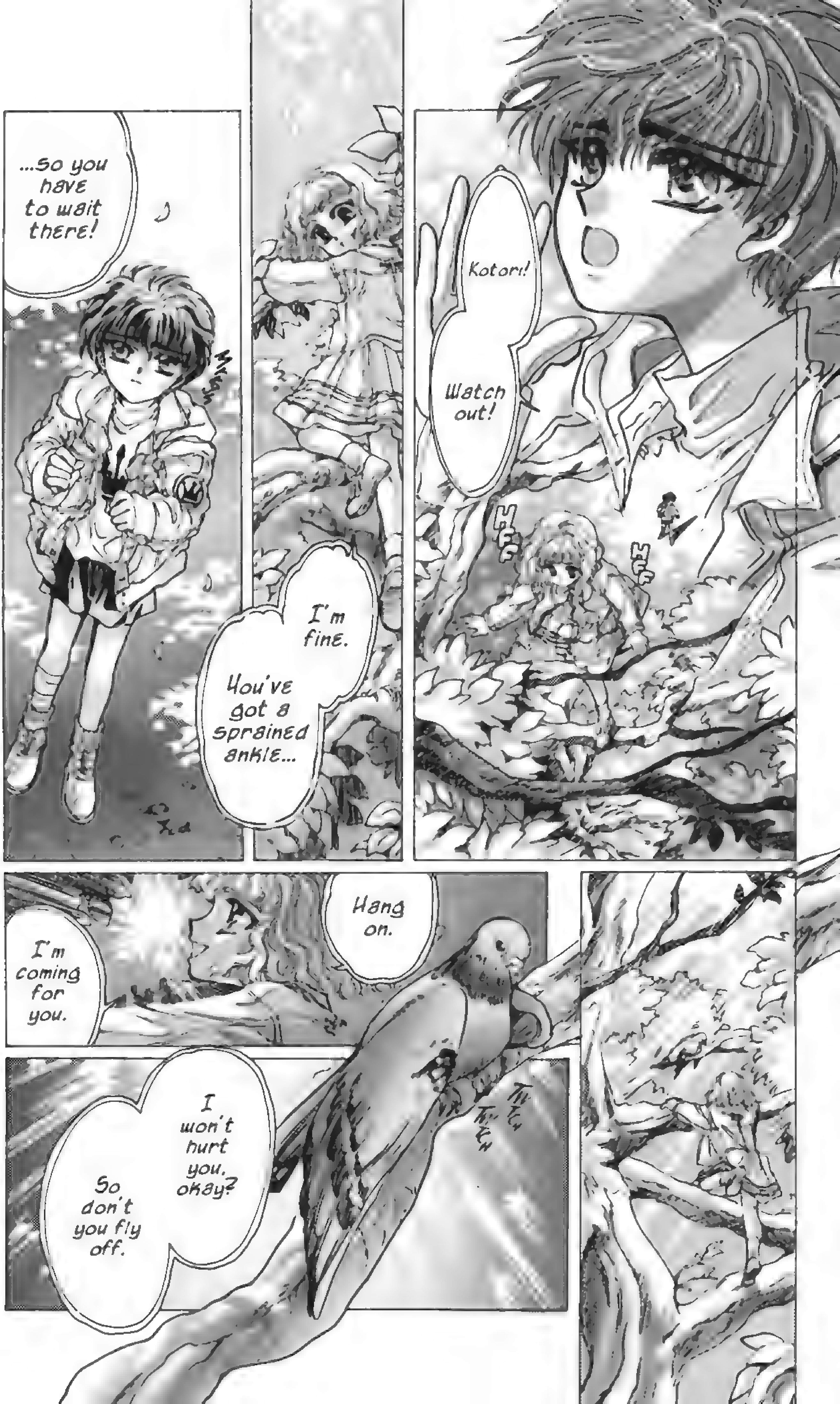

BATHUMP
UH... UM...
SL USH
PANIC!!
I... I WAS JUST PASSING THROUGH...

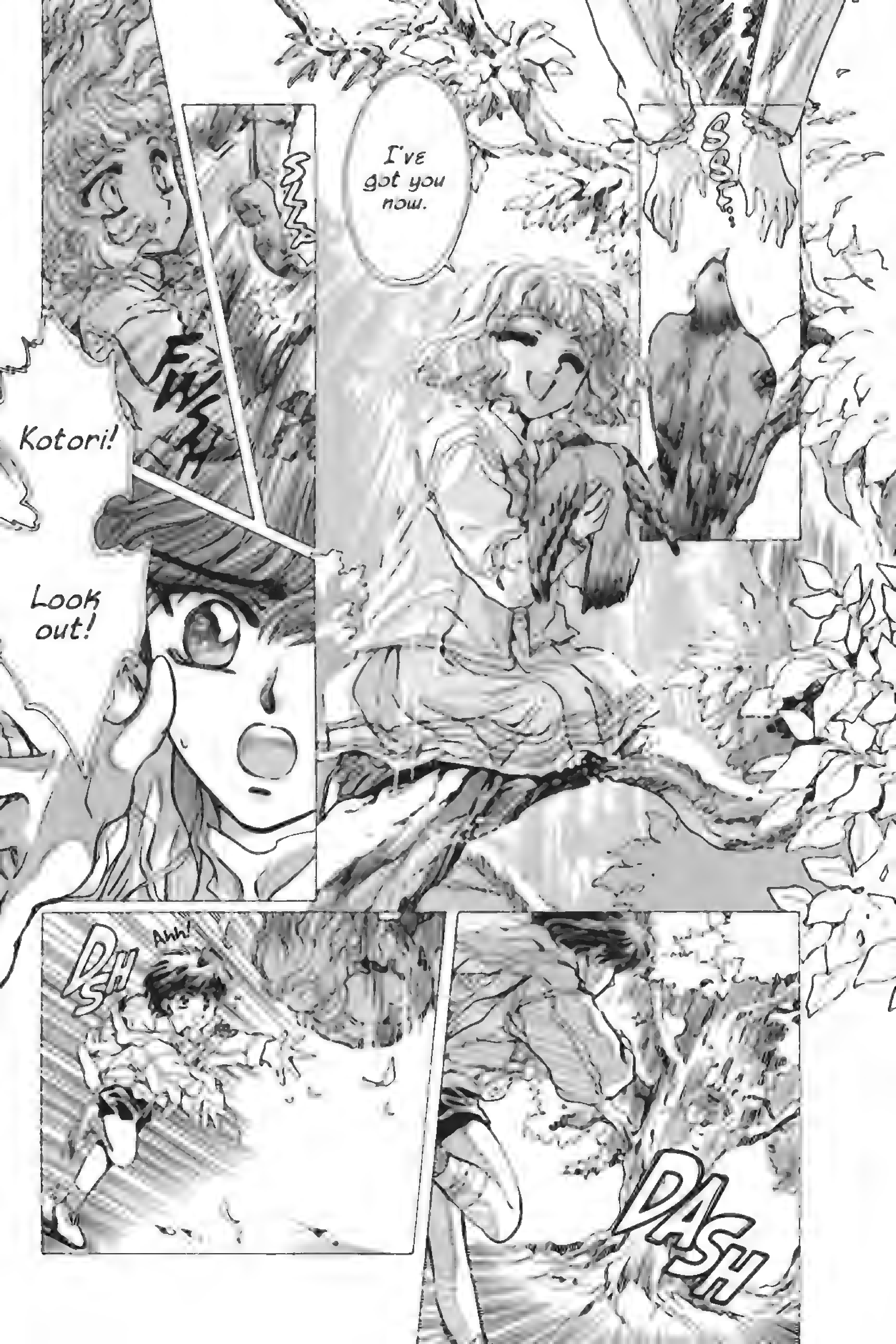

TWITCH
UM... UM...
I WASN'T FOLLOWING...
...YOU!
I MEAN... I DIDN'T... OH!
FWMP
KYAH!
KFF
ZWSH
SHHMP

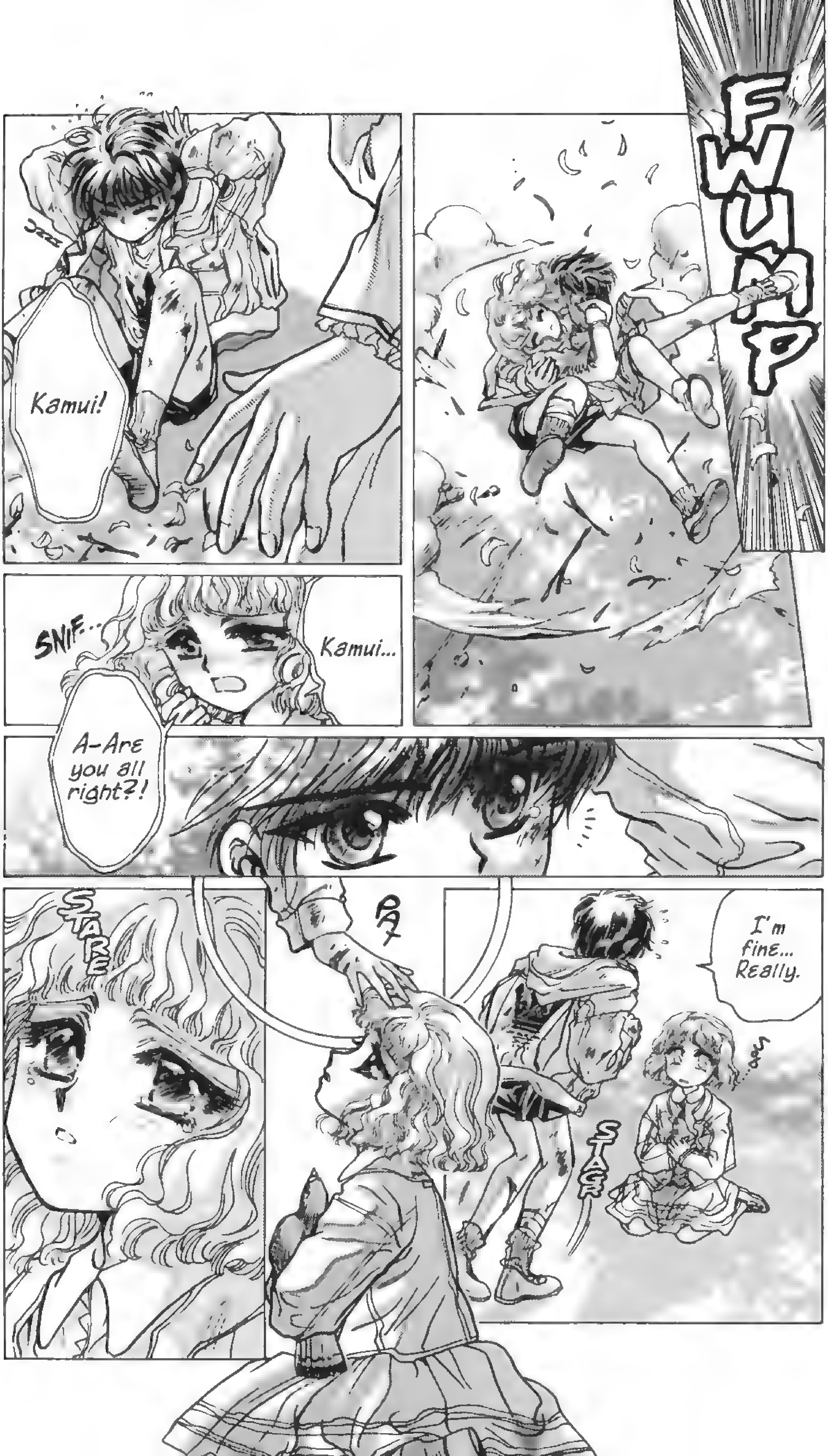

FLTTR...
Pha
BL USH
Eep!

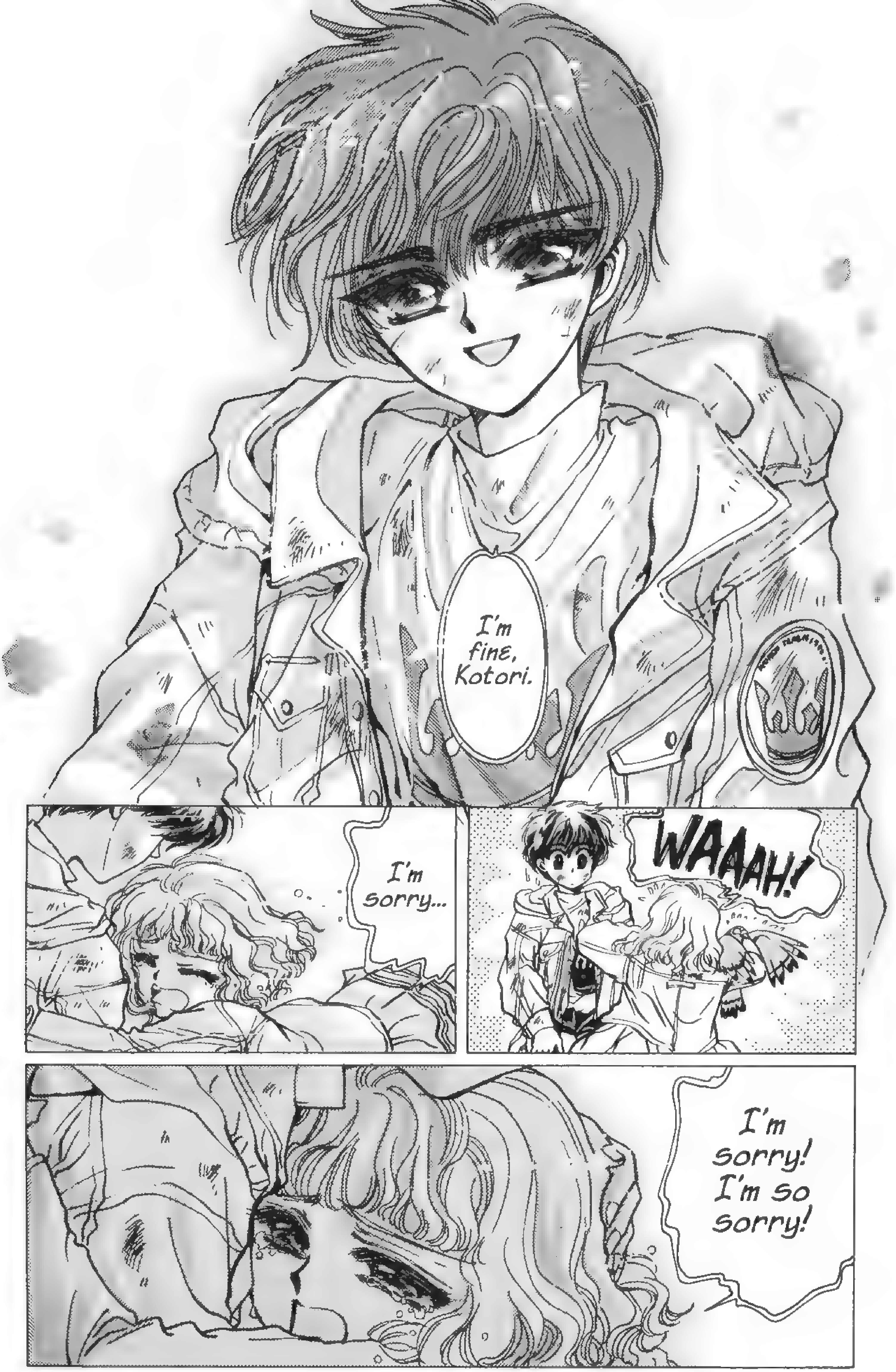

OH MY GOSH! OH!
PANIC PANIC
OH! OH NO!
FLAP FLAP
FWUMP
Uh-oh
KYAH!
FWISH
GRP
SHWP

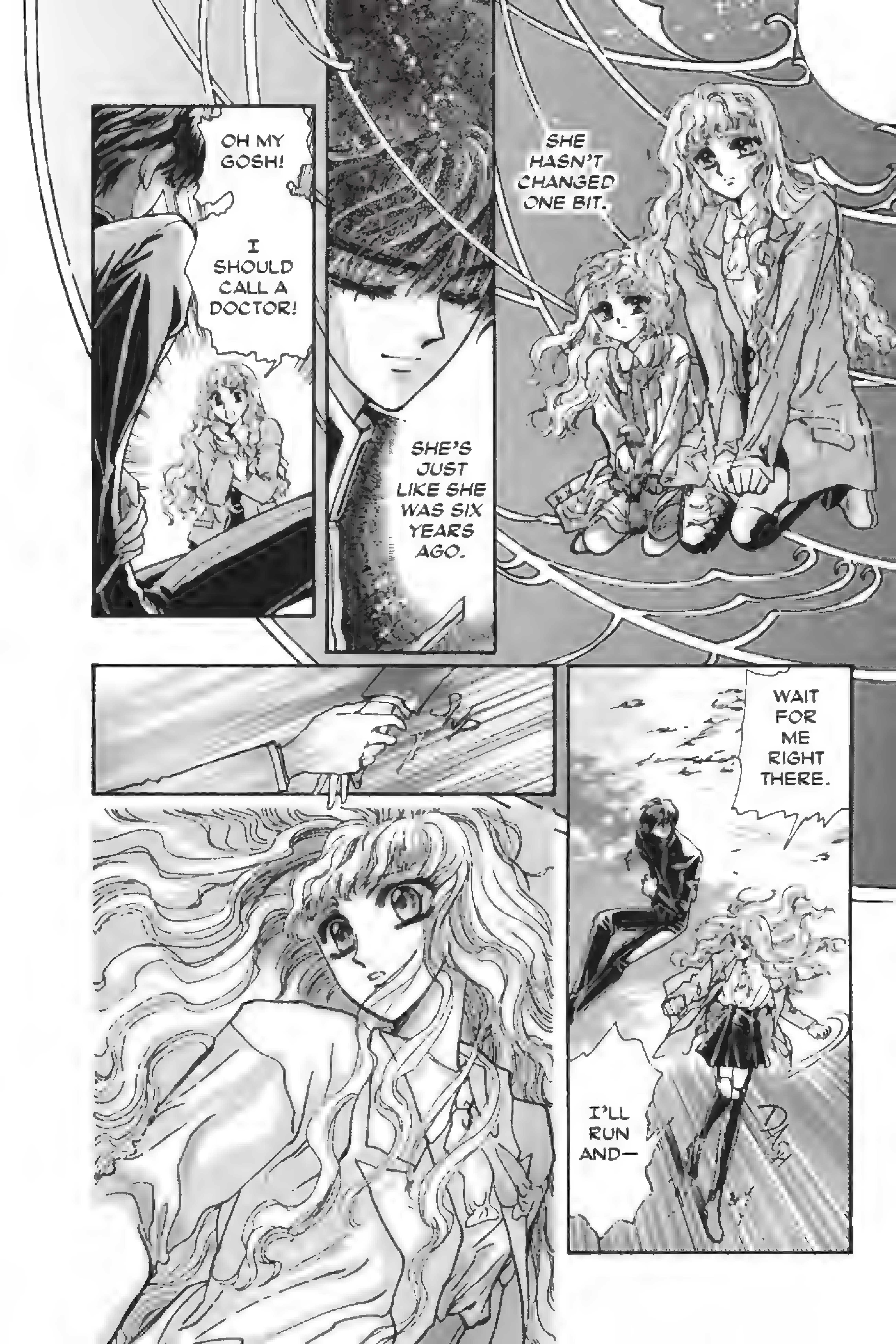

THUD
OUCH.
I'M SORRY! I'M SO SORRY!
Kotori ...

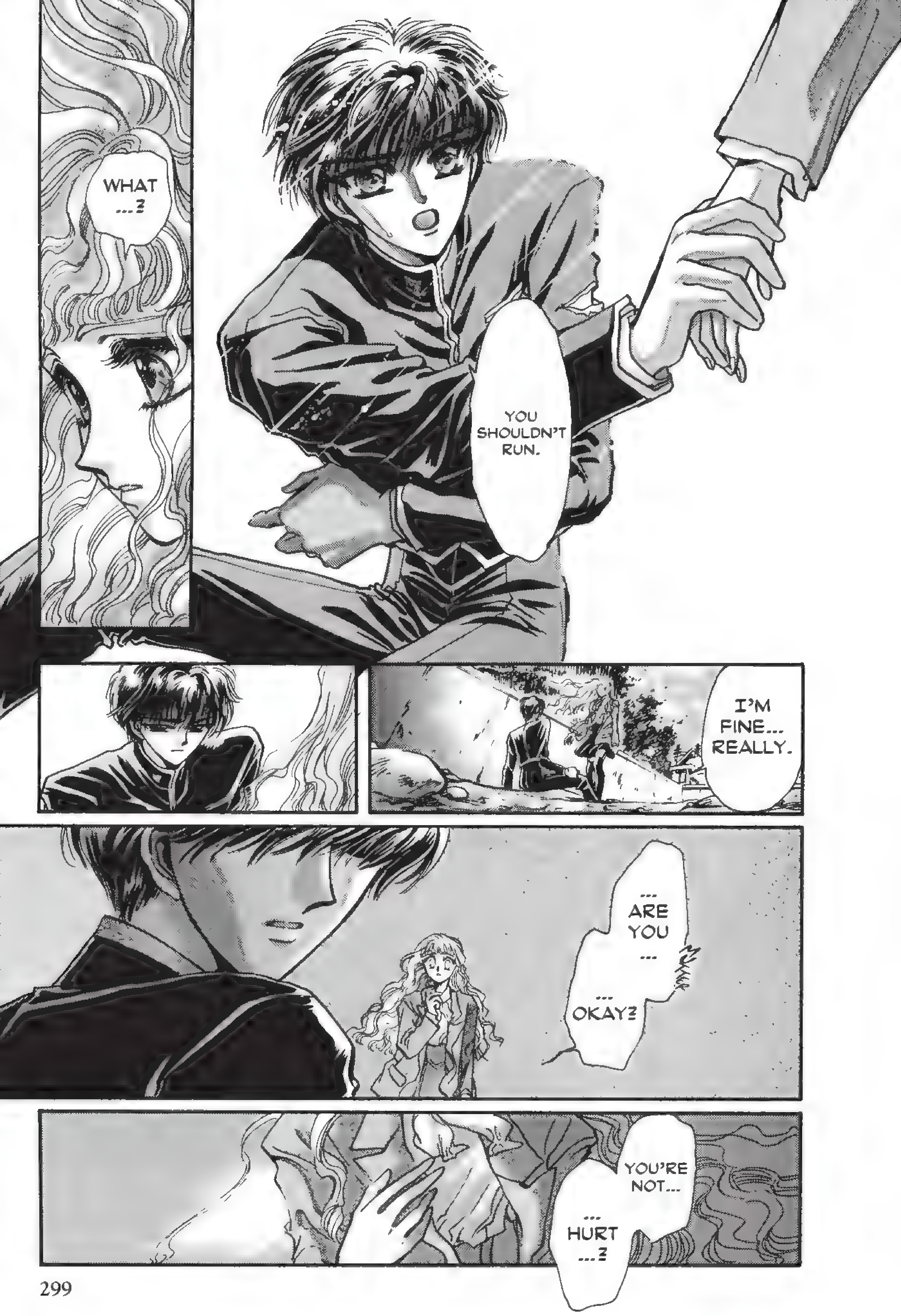

Kotori!
Watch out!
I'm fine.
You've got a sprained ankle...
...So you have to wait there!
Hang on.
I'm coming for you.
I won't hurt you, okay?
So don't you fly off.

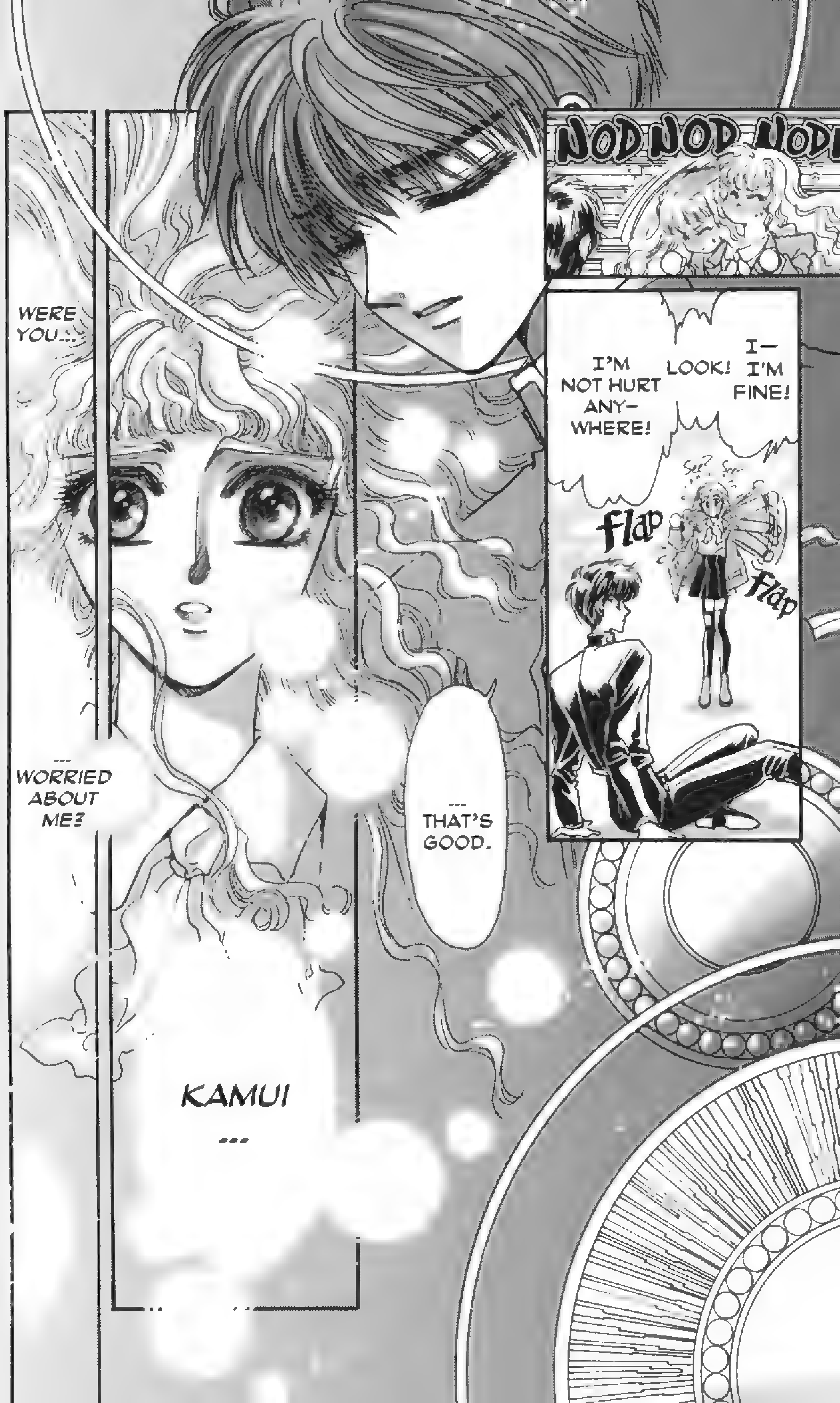

SSL...
I've got you now.
SLLP
FWSH
Kotori!
Look out!
DASH
DASH
Ahh!

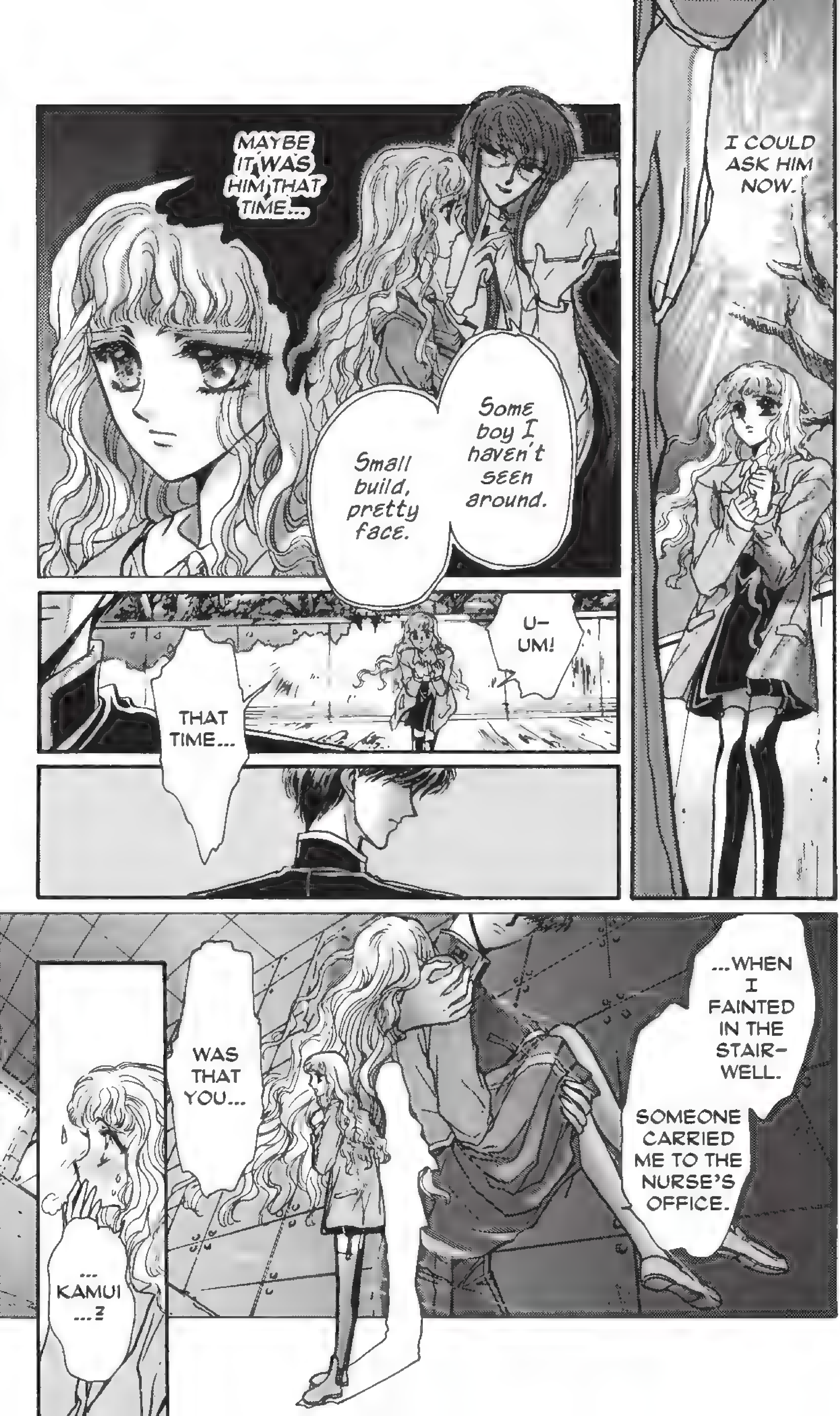

FWUMP
Kamui!
Kamui...
SNIF...
A-Are you all right?!
I'm fine... Really.
STAGR
PAT
STARE

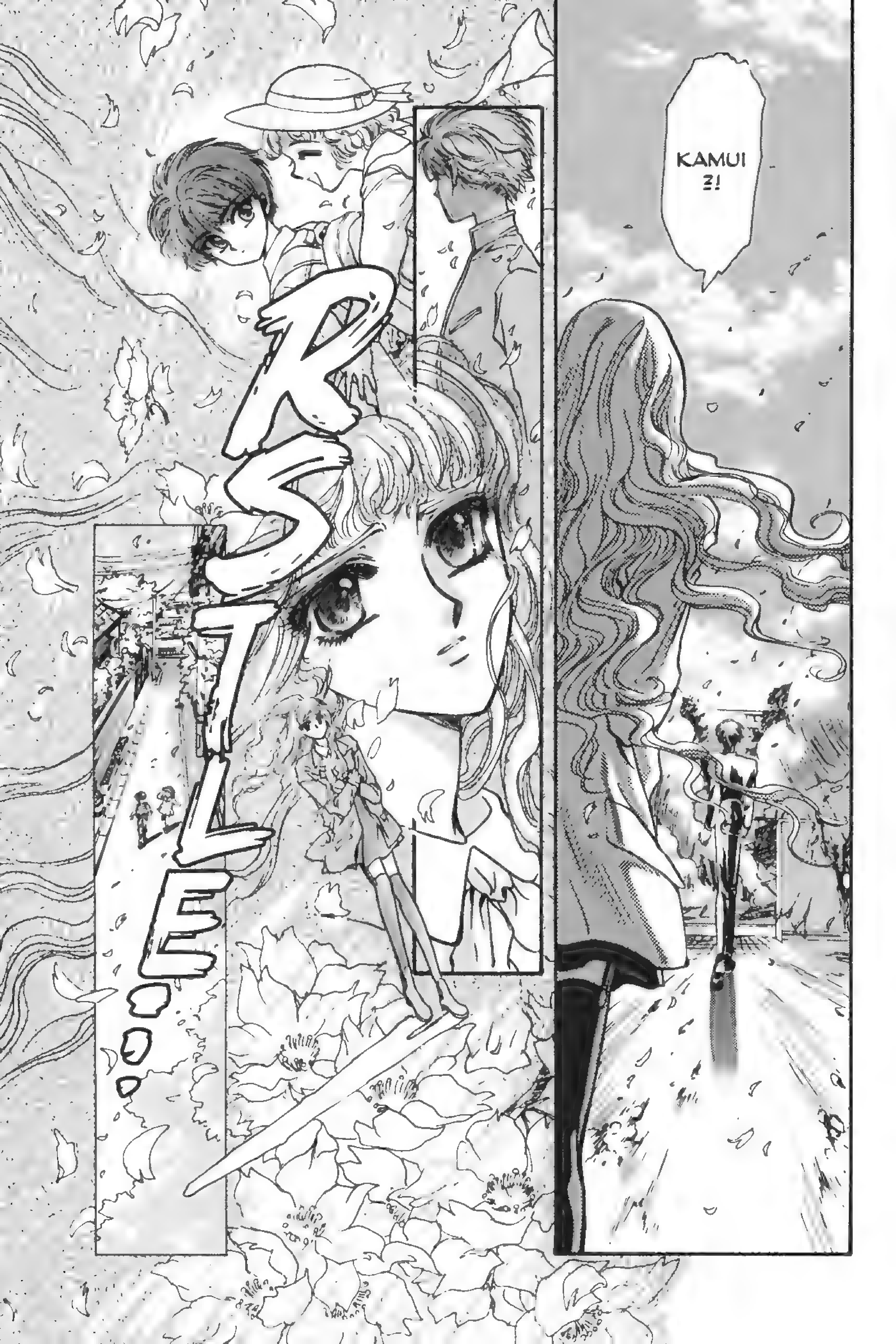

I'm fine, Kotori.
WAAAH!
I'm sorry...
I'm sorry! I'm so sorry!

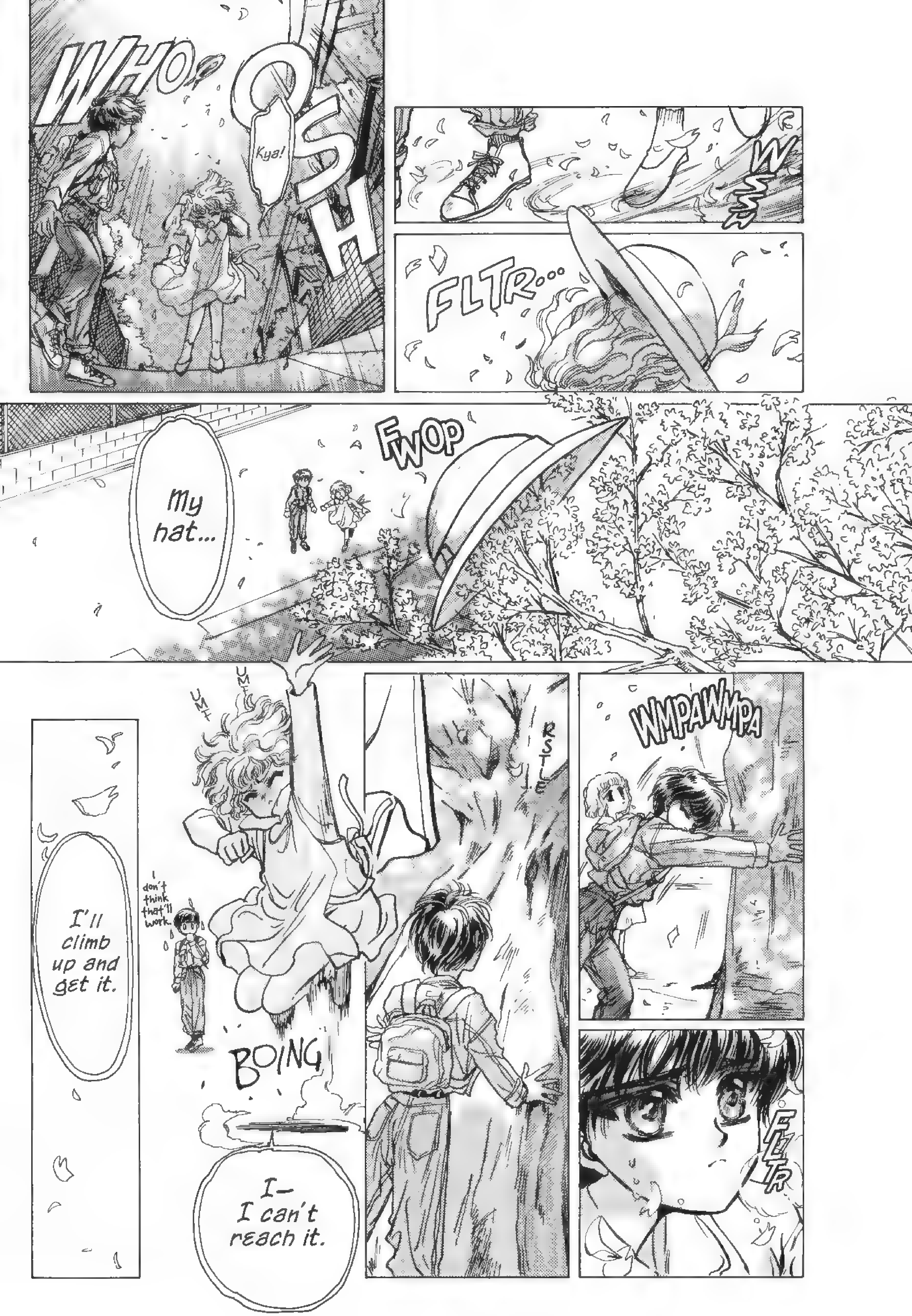

SHE HASN'T CHANGED ONE BIT.
SHE'S JUST LIKE SHE WAS SIX YEARS AGO.
OH MY GOSH!
I SHOULD CALL A DOCTOR!
WAIT FOR ME RIGHT THERE.
I'LL RUN AND—
DASH

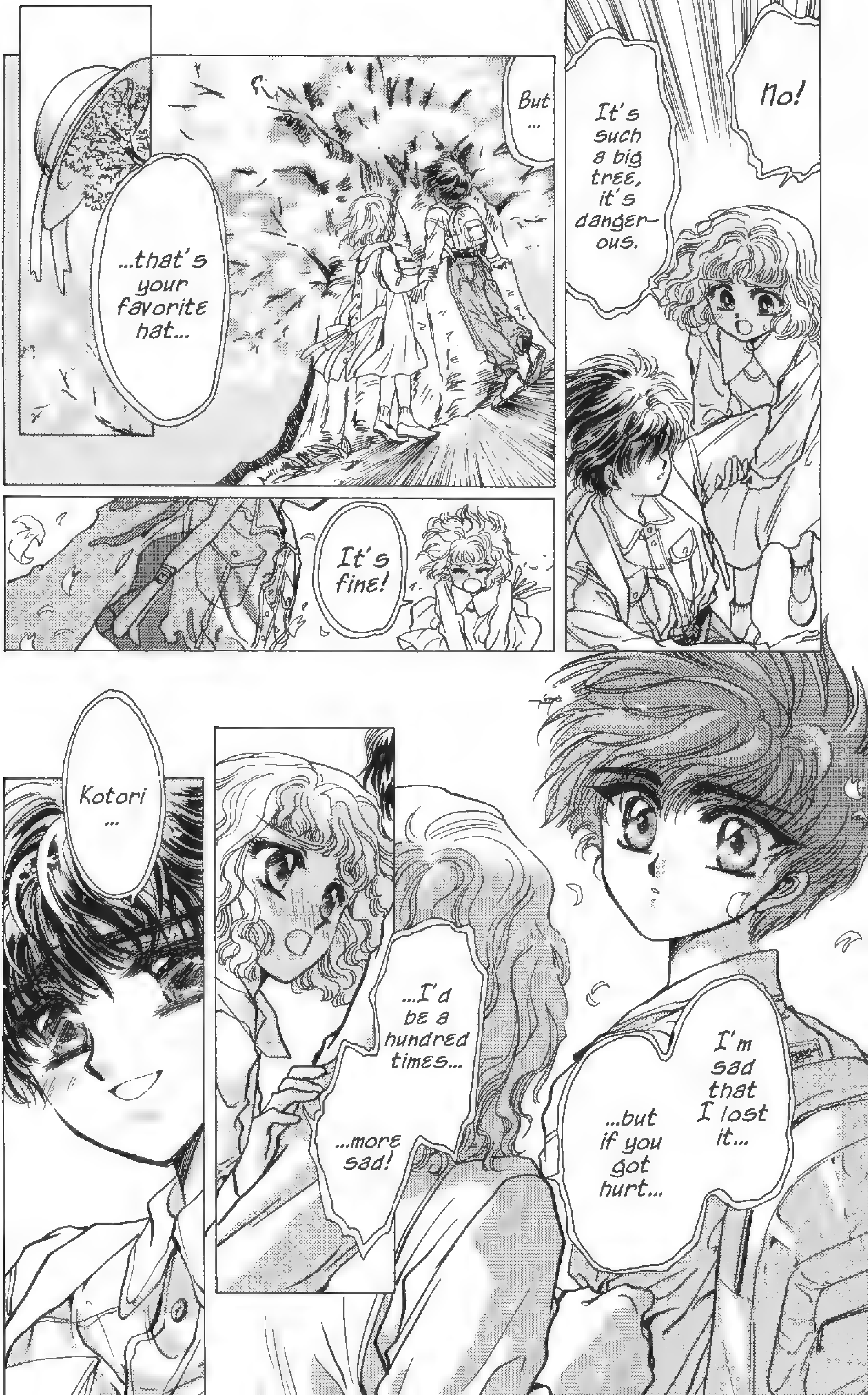

YOU SHOULDN'T RUN.
WHAT ...?
I'M FINE... REALLY.
... ARE YOU ... ... OKAY?
YOU'RE NOT... ... HURT ...?

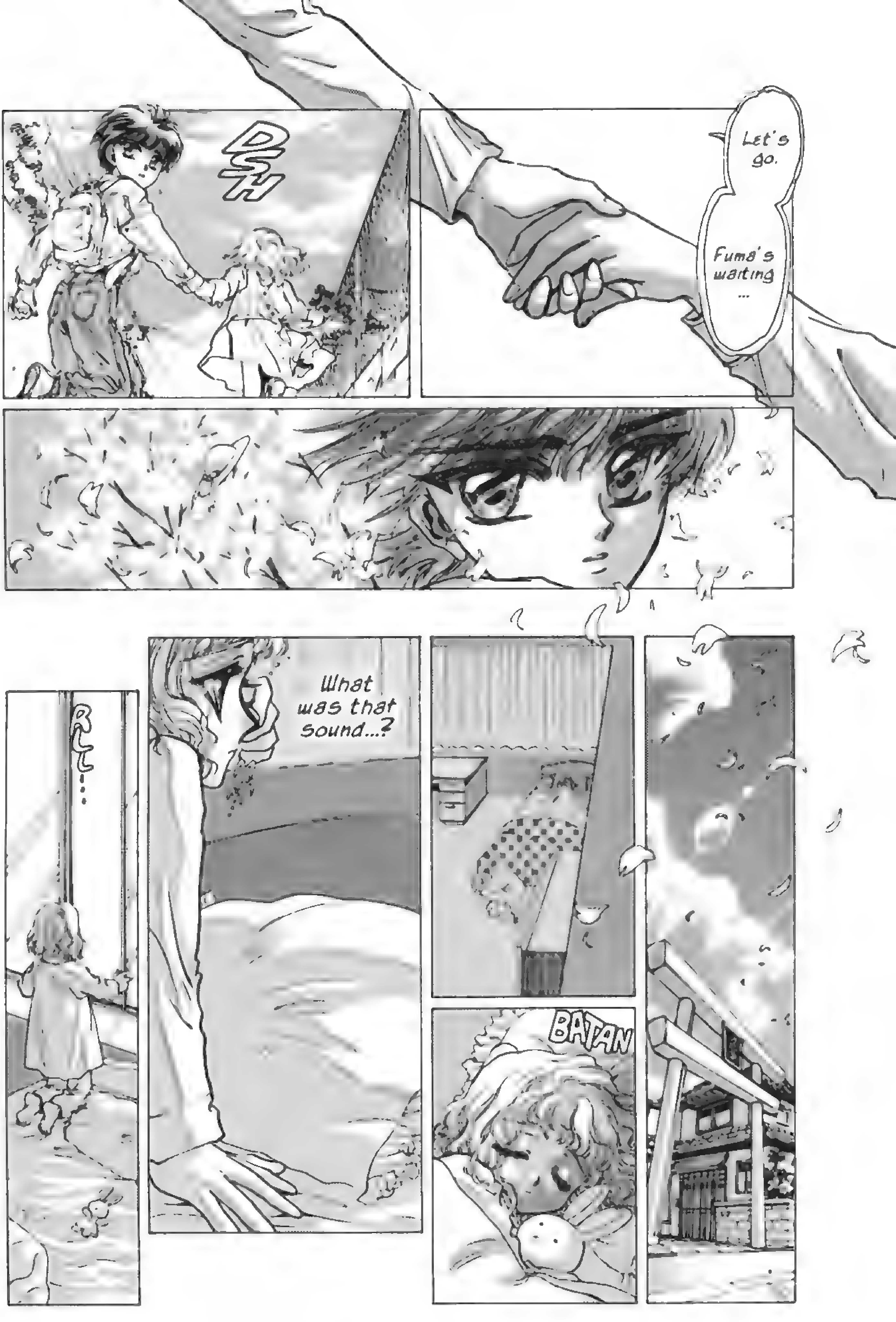

NOD NOD NOD
I— I'M FINE!
LOOK!
I'M NOT HURT ANYWHERE!
See? See
Flap
Flap
... THAT'S GOOD.
KAMUI ...
WERE YOU...
... WORRIED ABOUT ME?

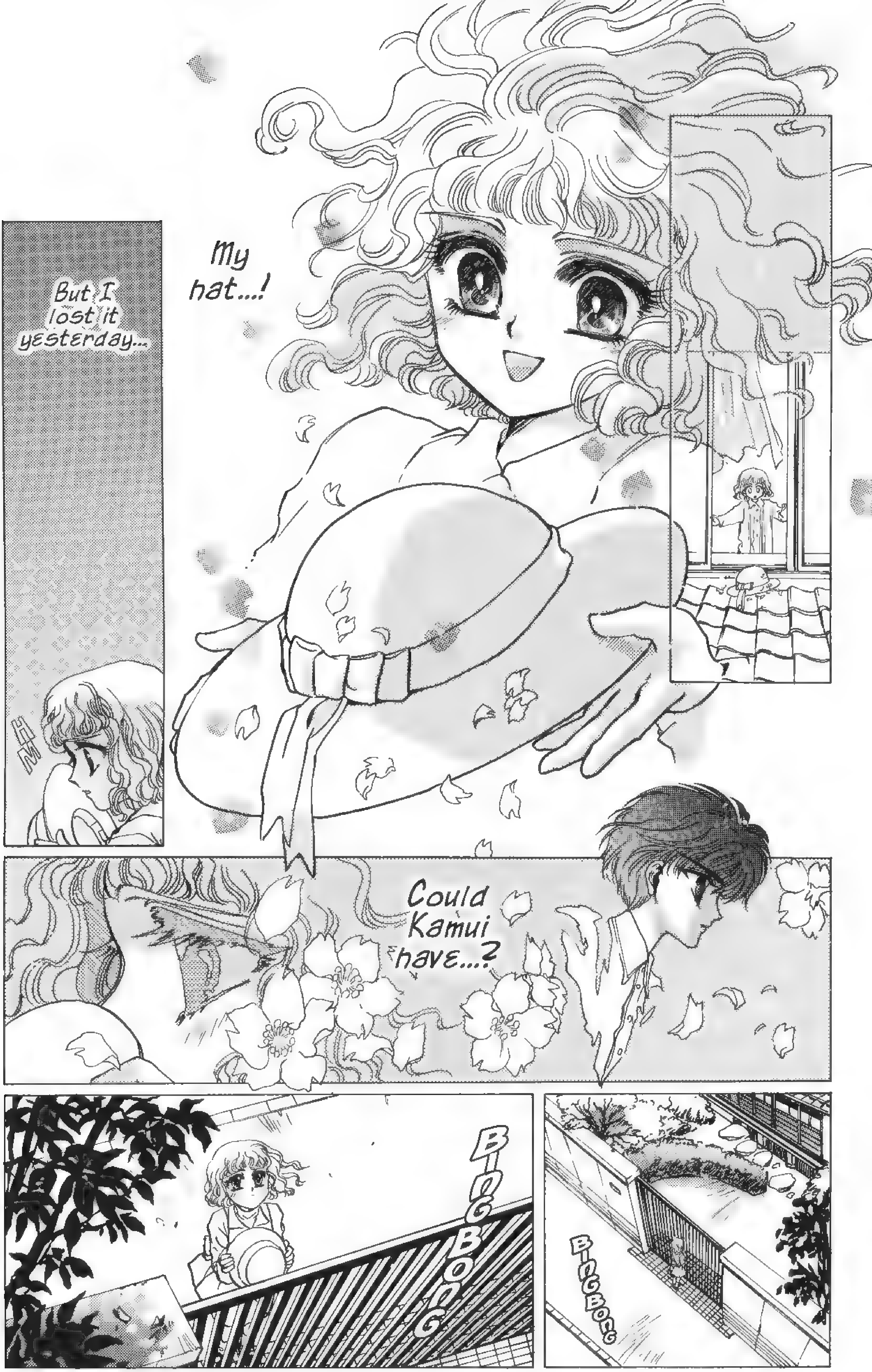

I COULD ASK HIM NOW.
Some boy I haven't seen around.
Small build, pretty face.
MAYBE IT WAS HIM THAT TIME...
U-UM!
THAT TIME...
...WHEN I FAINTED IN THE STAIRWELL.
SOMEONE CARRIED ME TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE.
WAS THAT YOU...
...KAMUI...?

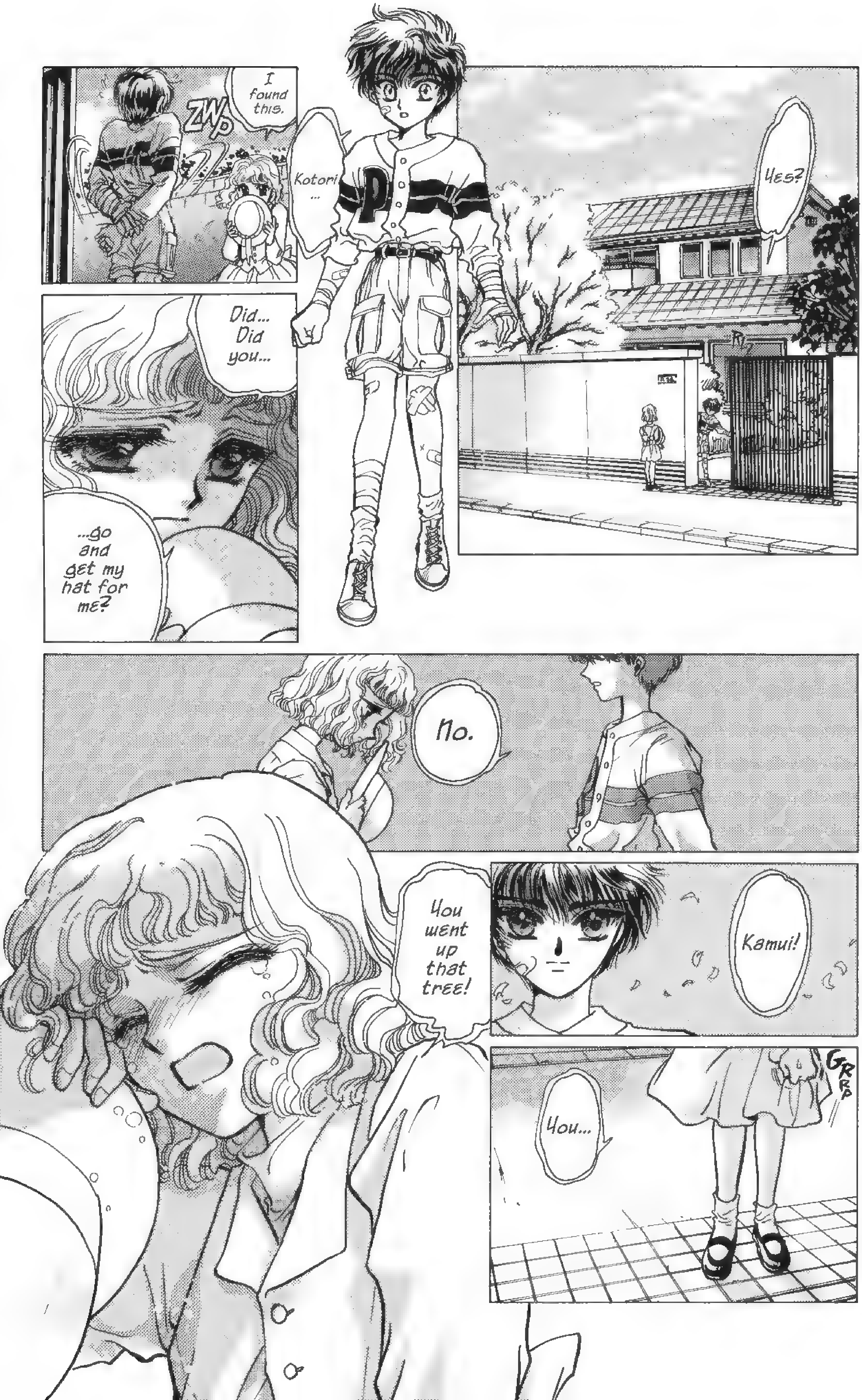

KAMUI ?!
RSTLE...

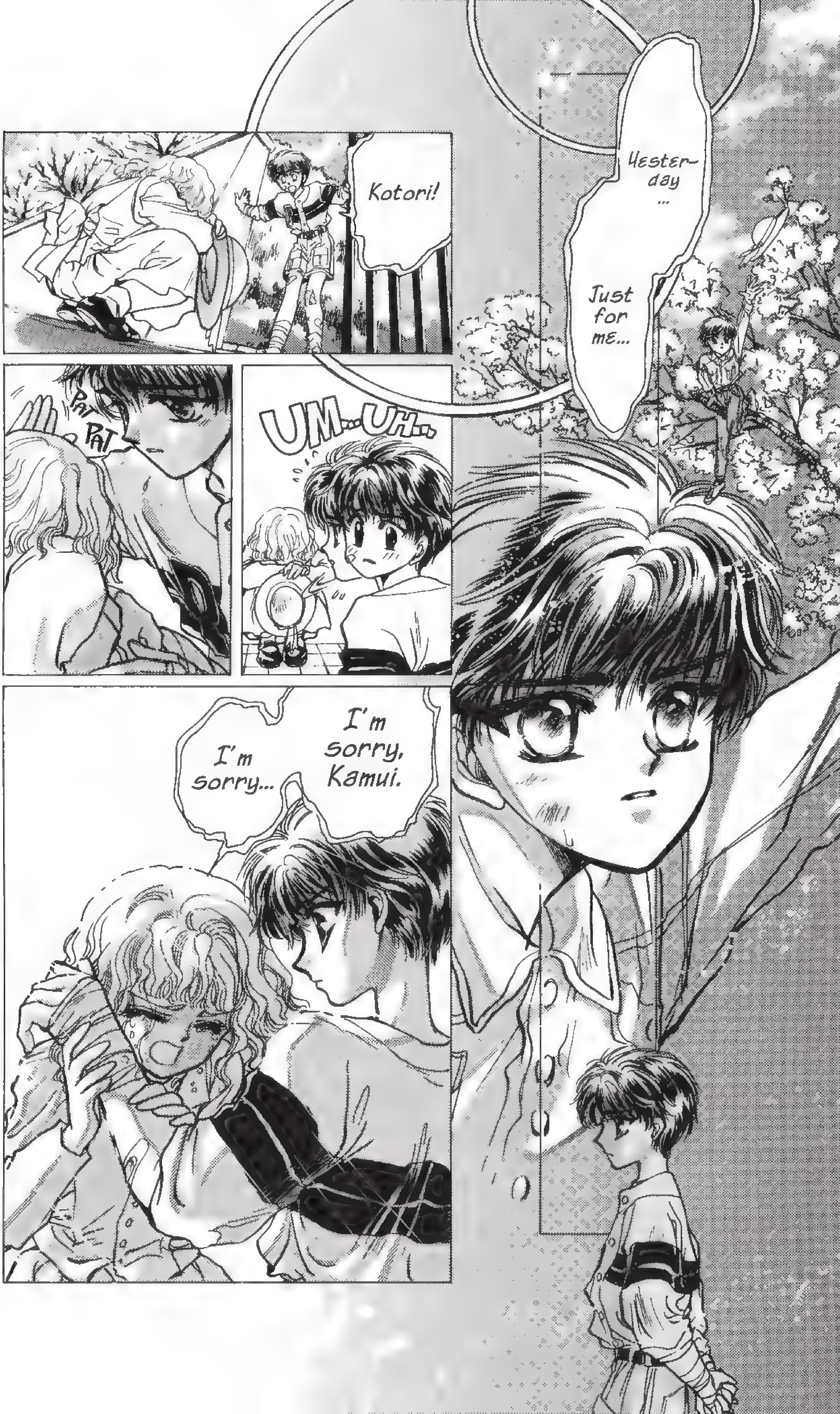

WHOOSH
Kya!
WSSH
FLTR...
FWOP
My hat...
UMF
UMF
BOING
I'll climb up and get it.
I don't think that'll work.
I— I can't reach it.
RSTLE
WMPAWMPA
FLTR

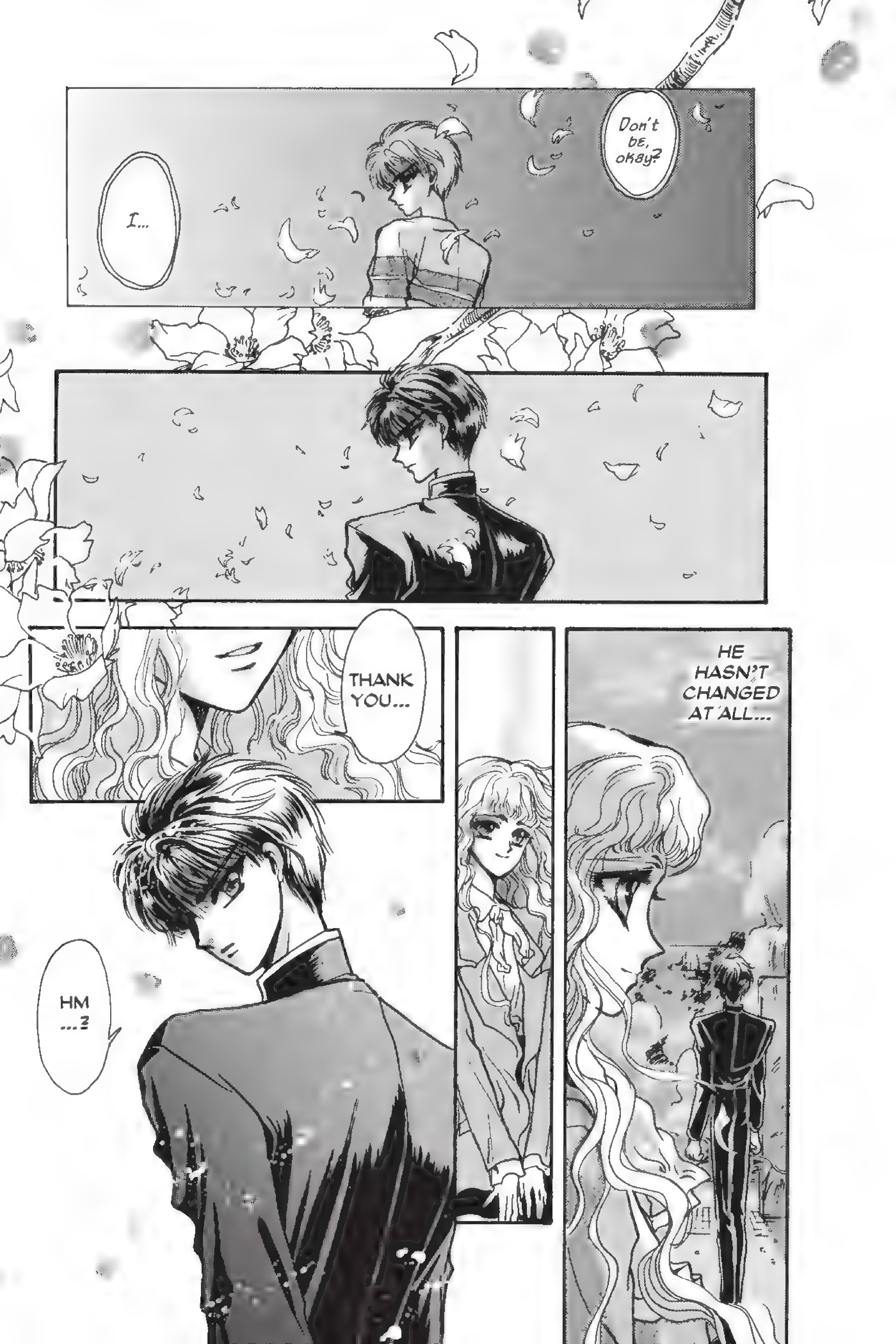

No!
It's such a big tree, it's danger-ous.
But ...
...that's your favorite hat...
It's fine!
I'm sad that I lost it...
...but if you got hurt...
...I'd be a hundred times...
...more sad!
Kotori ...

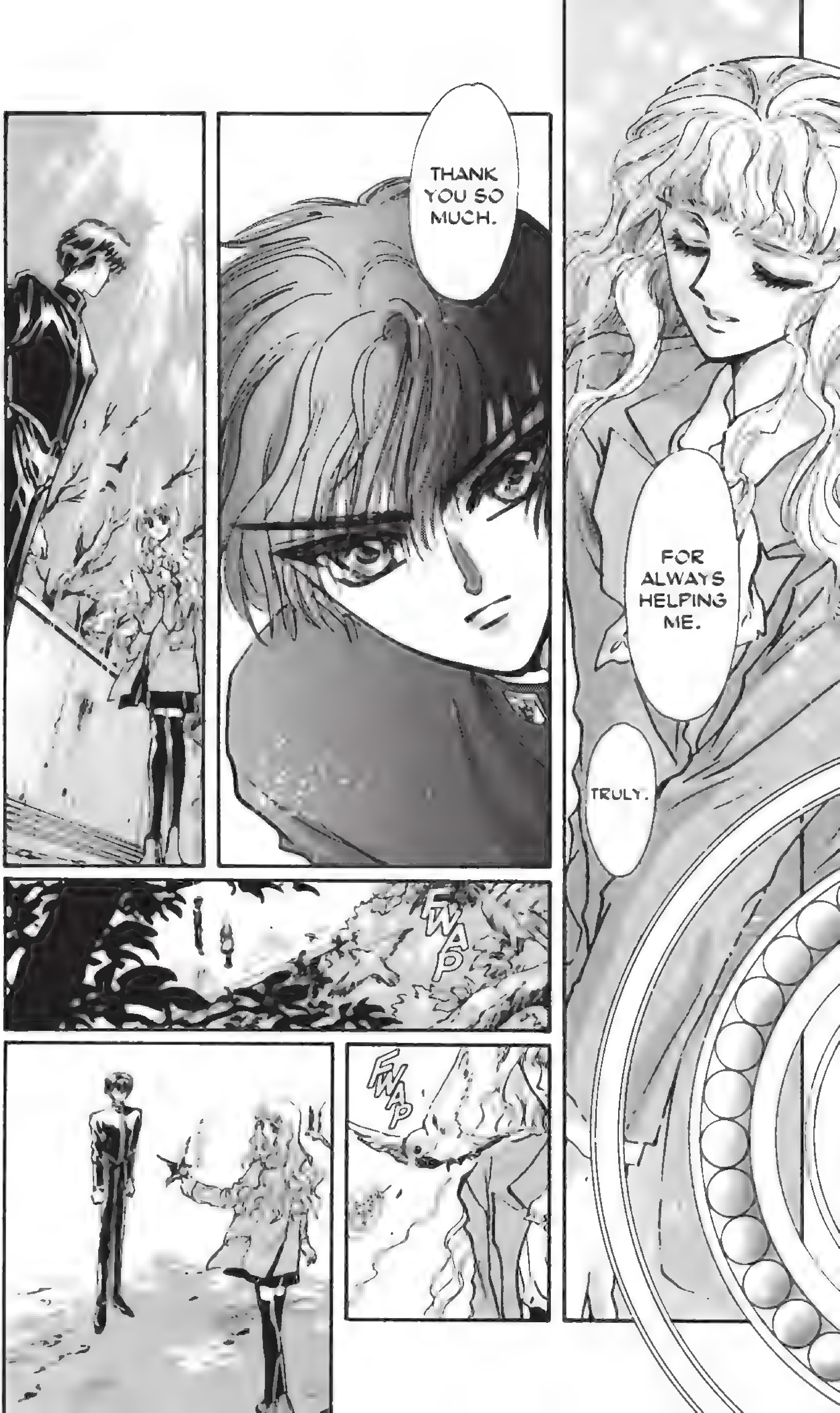

Let's go.
Fuma's waiting ...
DSH
BATAN
What was that sound...?
RLL...

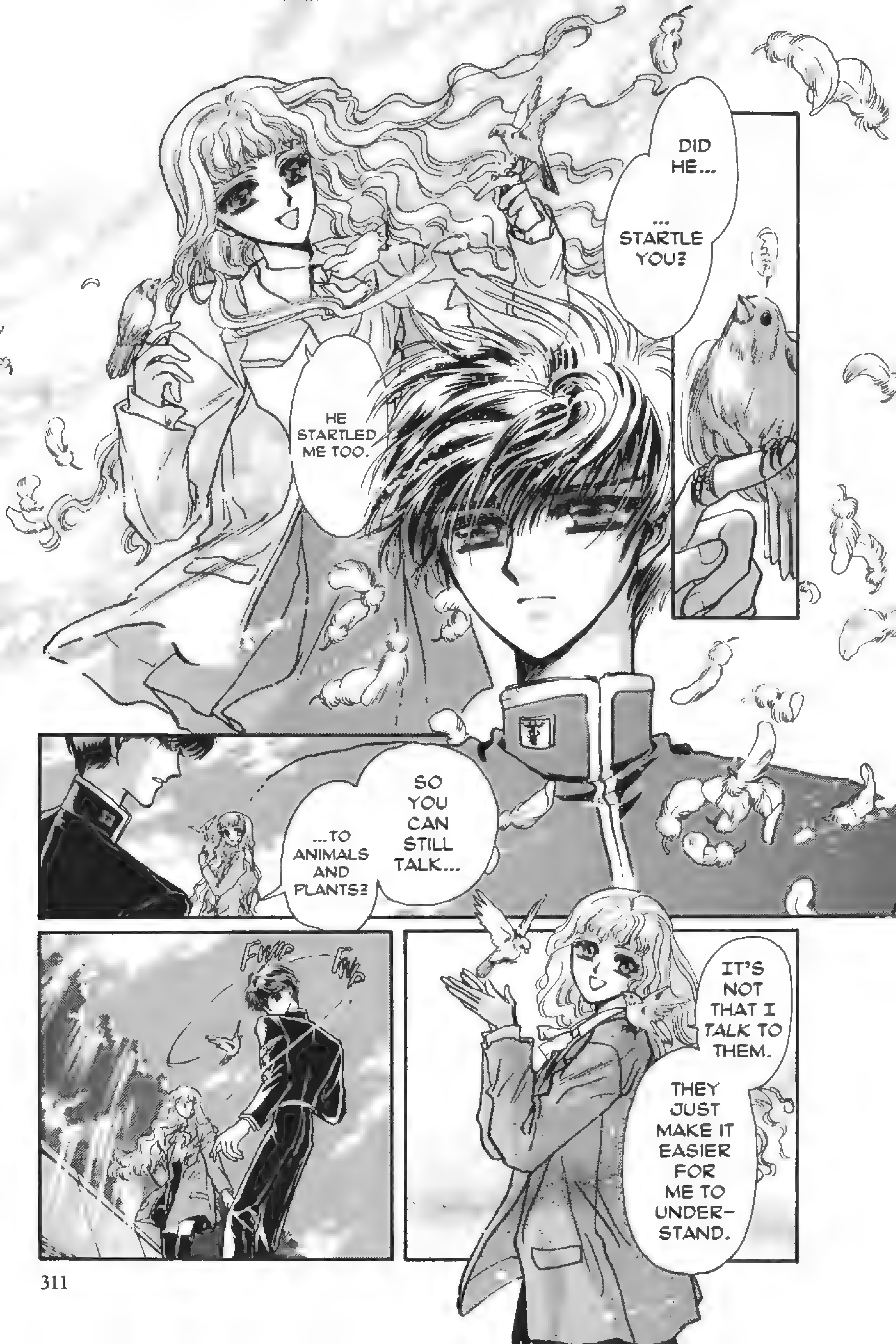

My hat...!
But I lost it yesterday...
HM
Could Kamui have...?
BINGBONG
BINGBONG

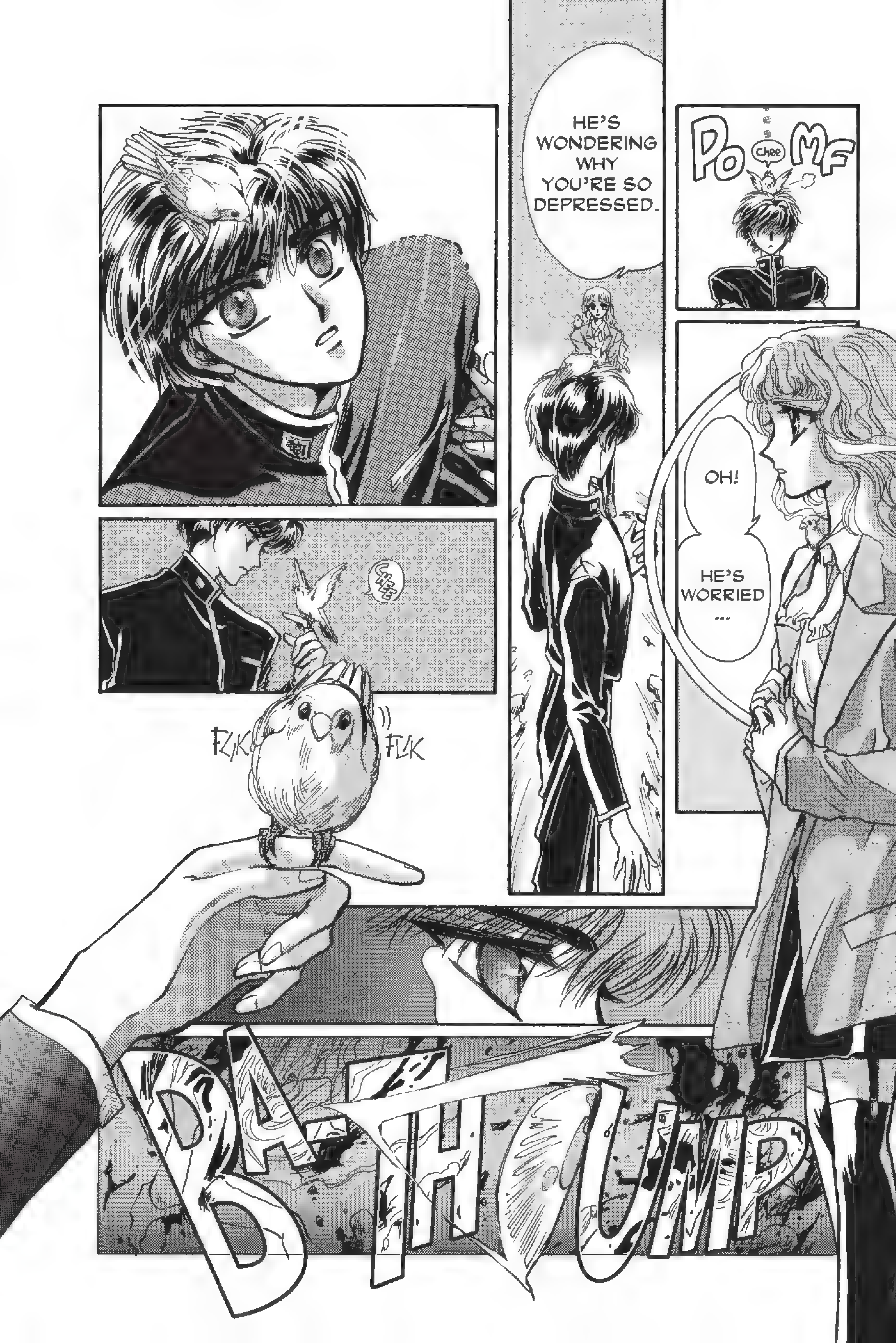

Kotori...
Yes?
I found this.
ZWP
Did... Did you...
...go and get my hat for me?
No.
You went up that tree!
Kamui!
You...
GRRP

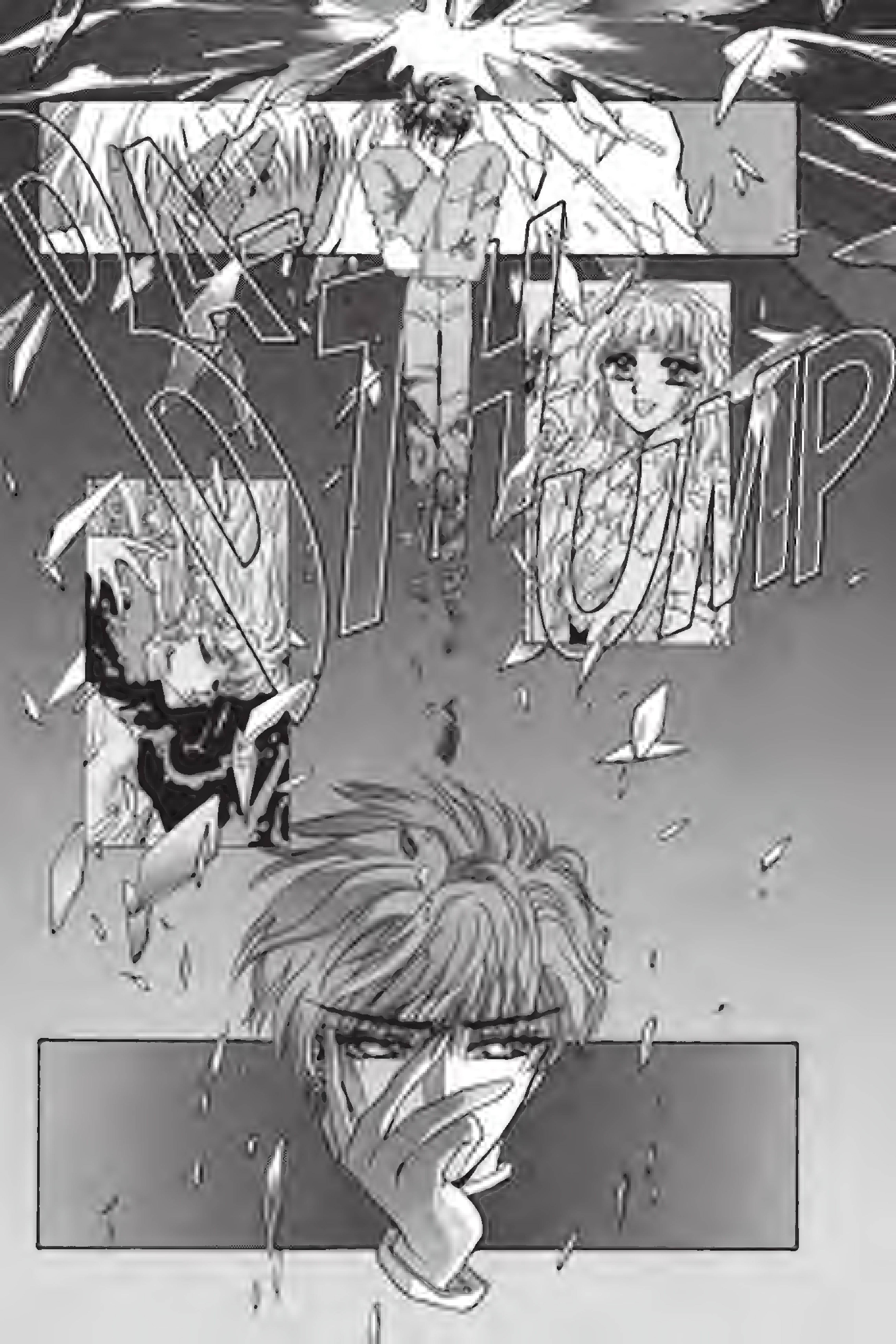

Yesterday… Just for me…
Kotori!
UM…UH…
PAT PAT
I'm sorry, Kamui.
I'm sorry…

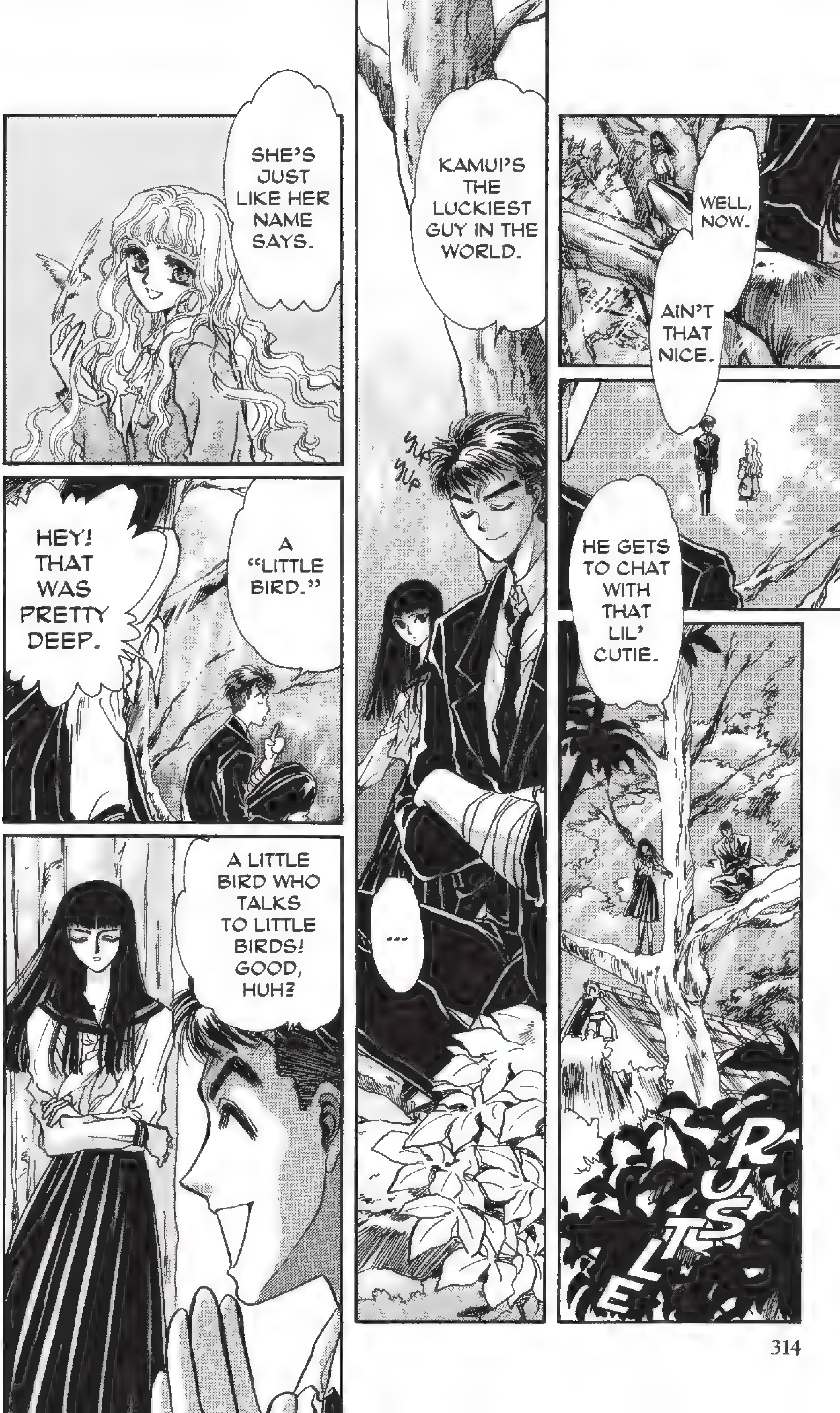

I...
Don't be, okay?
THANK YOU...
HM ...?
HE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL...

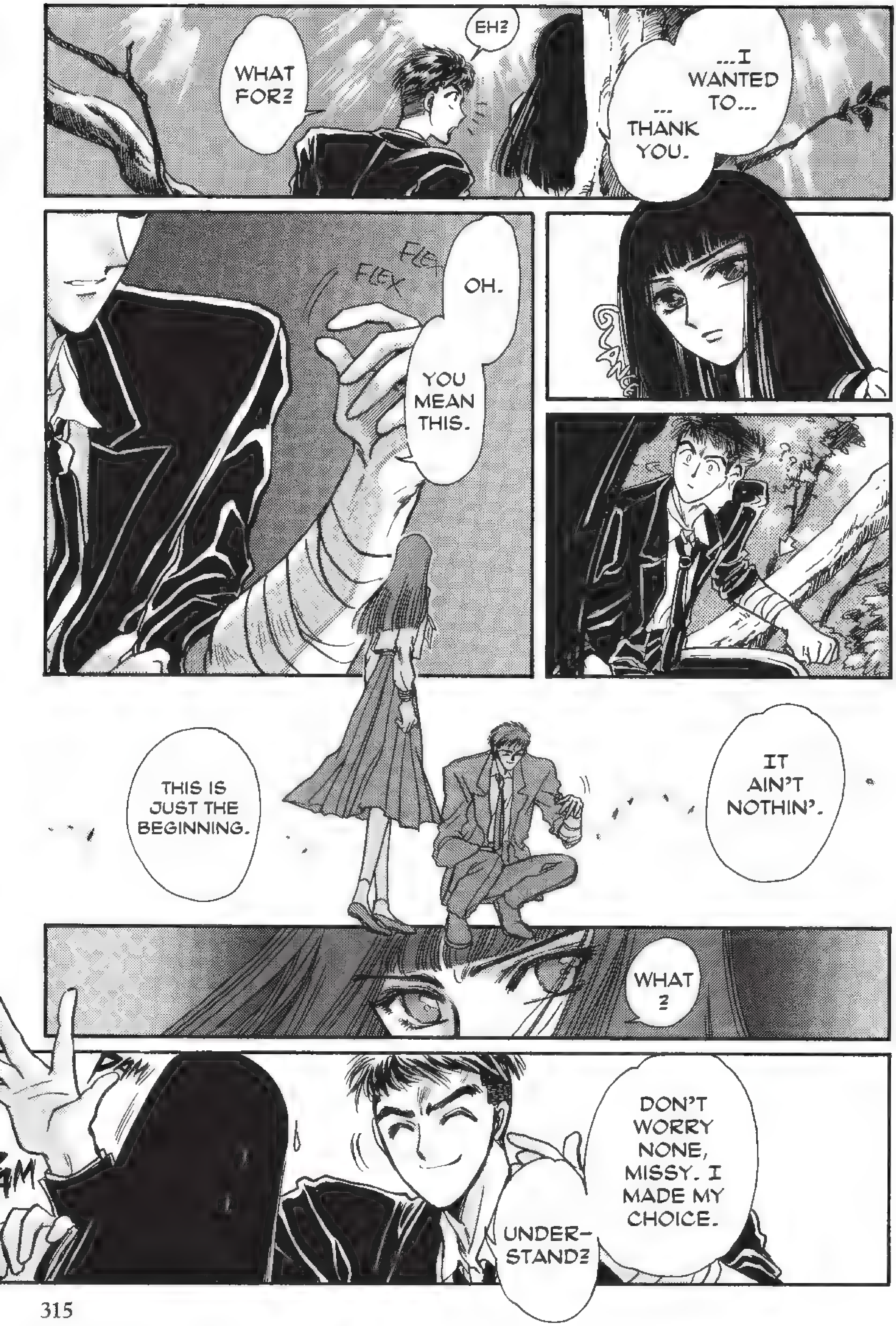

THANK YOU SO MUCH.
FOR ALWAYS HELPING ME.
TRULY.
FWAP
FWAP

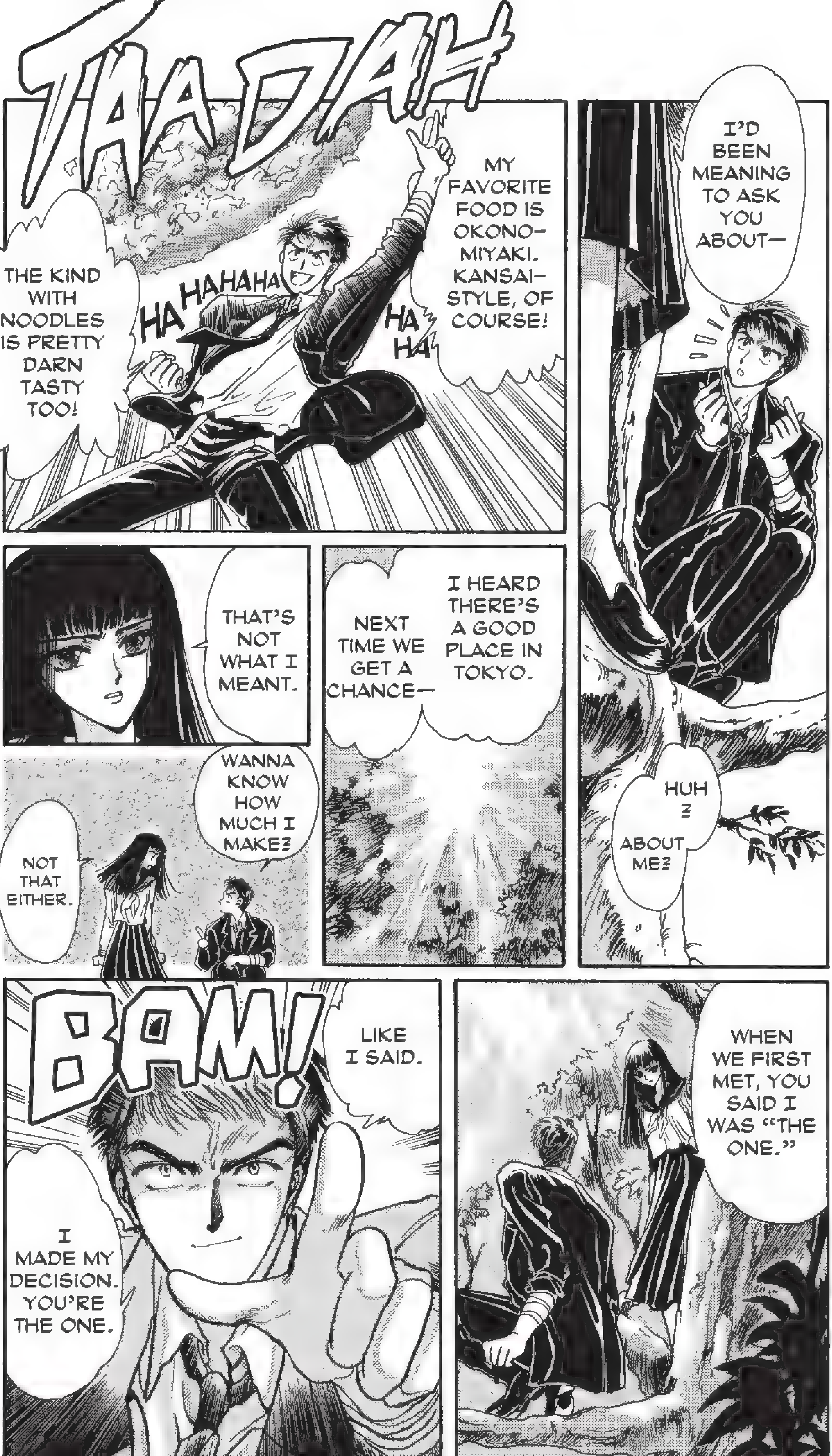

DID HE...
...STARTLE YOU?
HE STARTLED ME TOO.
SO YOU CAN STILL TALK...
...TO ANIMALS AND PLANTS?
FWIP FWIP
IT'S NOT THAT I *TALK* TO THEM.
THEY JUST MAKE IT EASIER FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND.

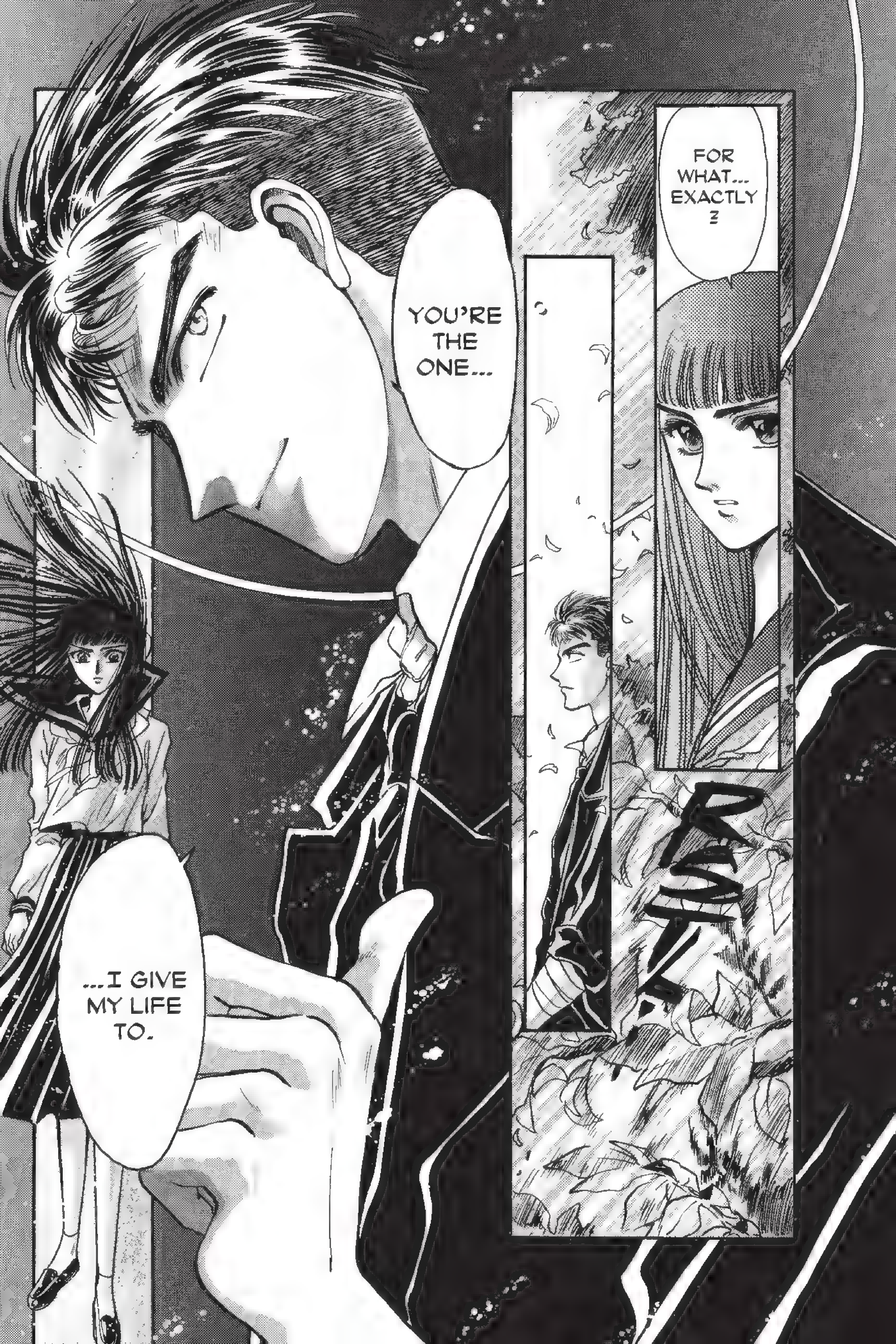

POMF
Chee
HE'S WONDERING WHY YOU'RE SO DEPRESSED.
OH!
HE'S WORRIED ...
CHEE
FLIK FLIK
BA-THUMP

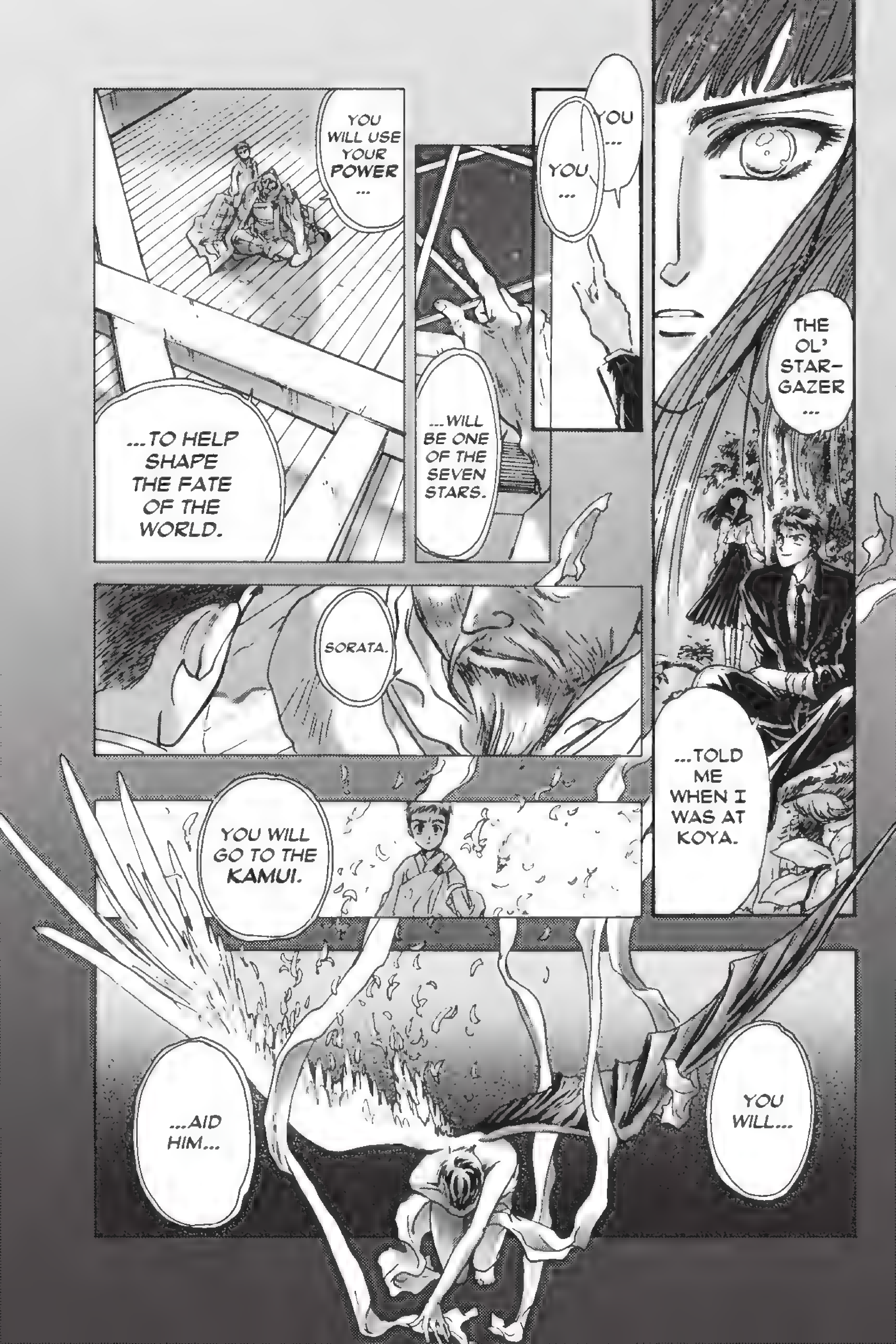

JUMP

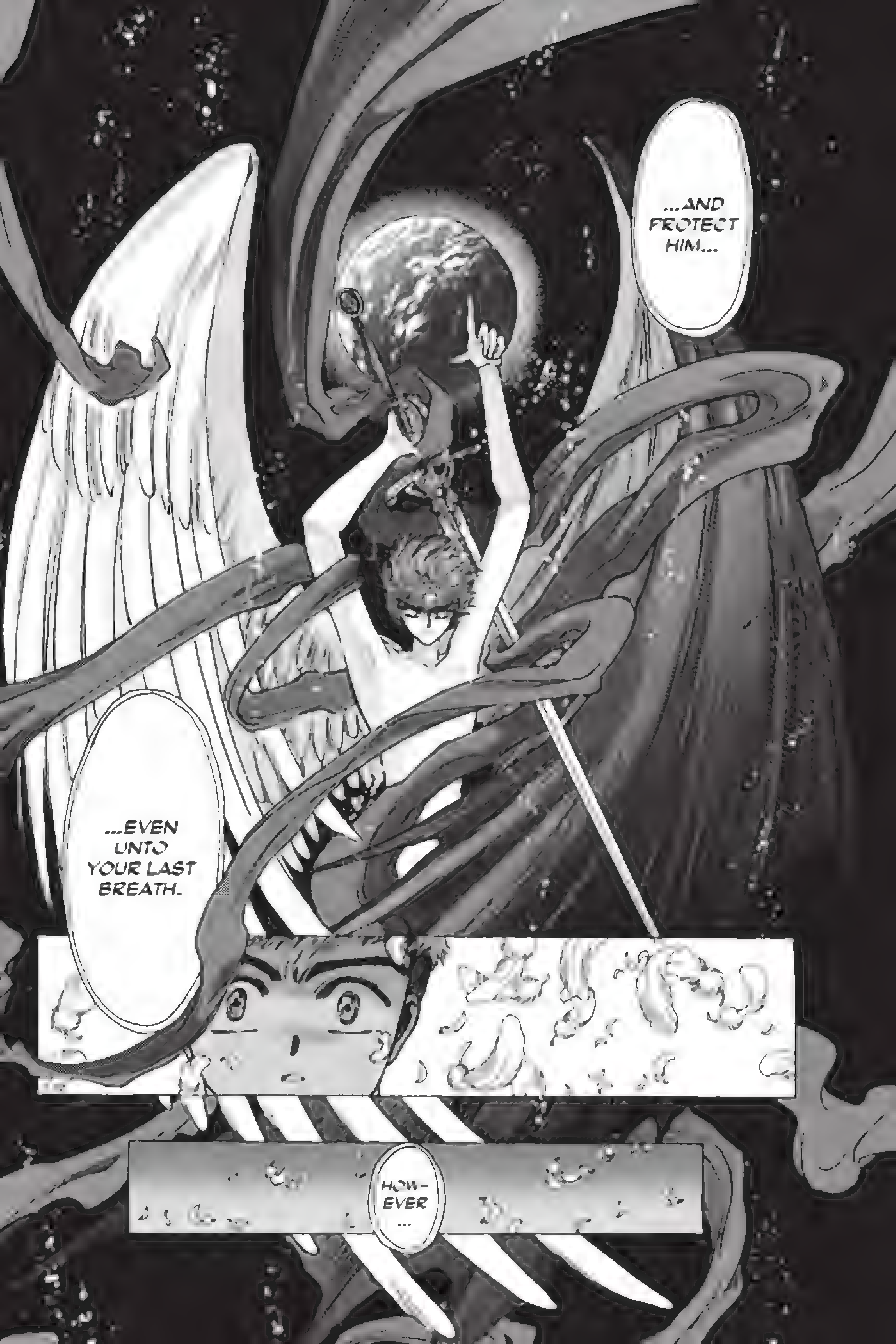

WELL, NOW.
AIN'T THAT NICE.
HE GETS TO CHAT WITH THAT LIL' CUTIE.
RUSTLE
KAMUI'S THE LUCKIEST GUY IN THE WORLD.
YUP YUP
...
SHE'S JUST LIKE HER NAME SAYS.
A "LITTLE BIRD."
HEY! THAT WAS PRETTY DEEP.
A LITTLE BIRD WHO TALKS TO LITTLE BIRDS! GOOD, HUH?

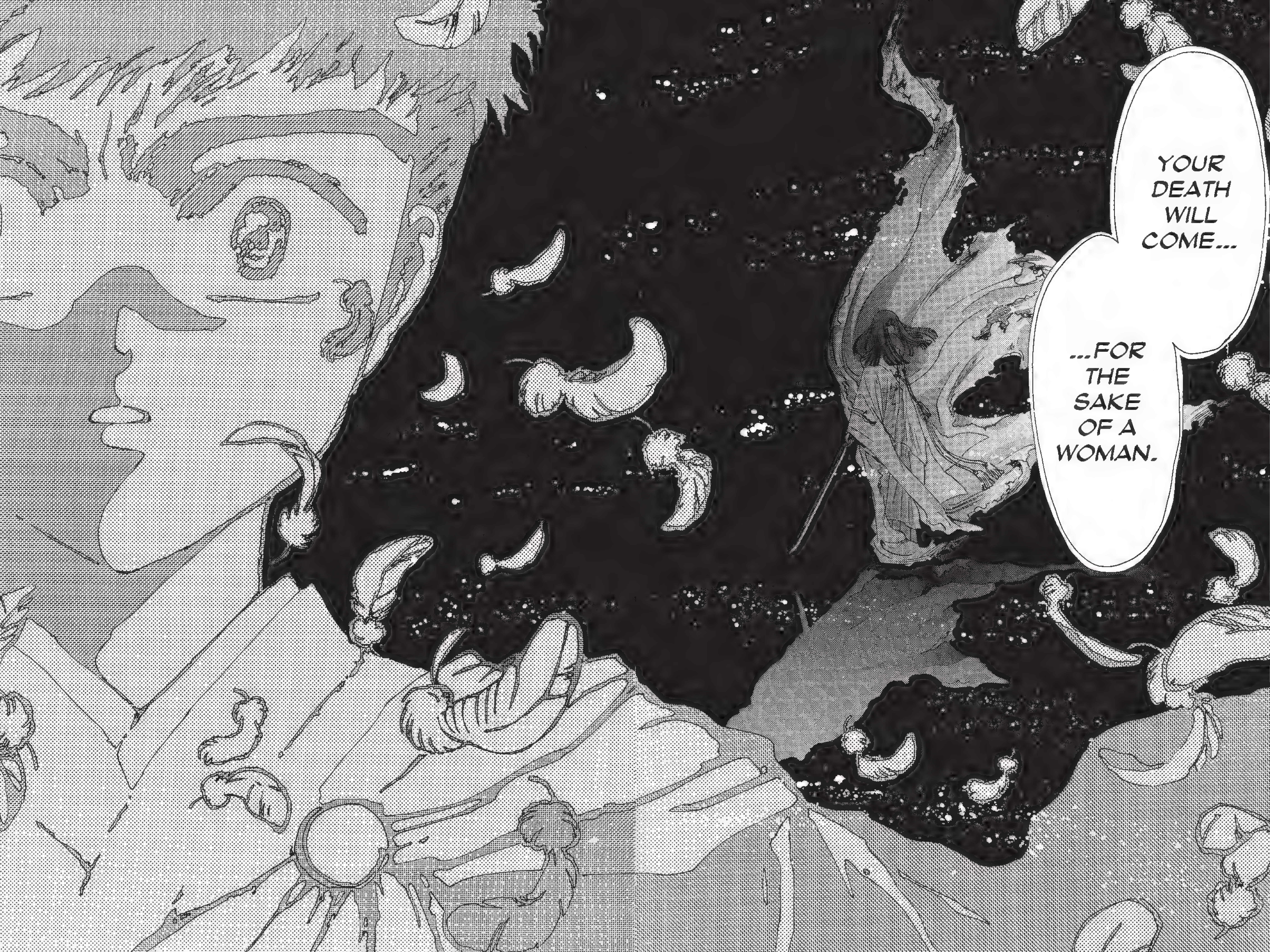

...I WANTED TO...
...THANK YOU.
EH?
WHAT FOR?
GLANCE
FLEX
FLEX
OH.
YOU MEAN THIS.
IT AIN'T NOTHIN'.
THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING.
WHAT?
DON'T WORRY NONE, MISSY. I MADE MY CHOICE.
UNDERSTAND?
DAM

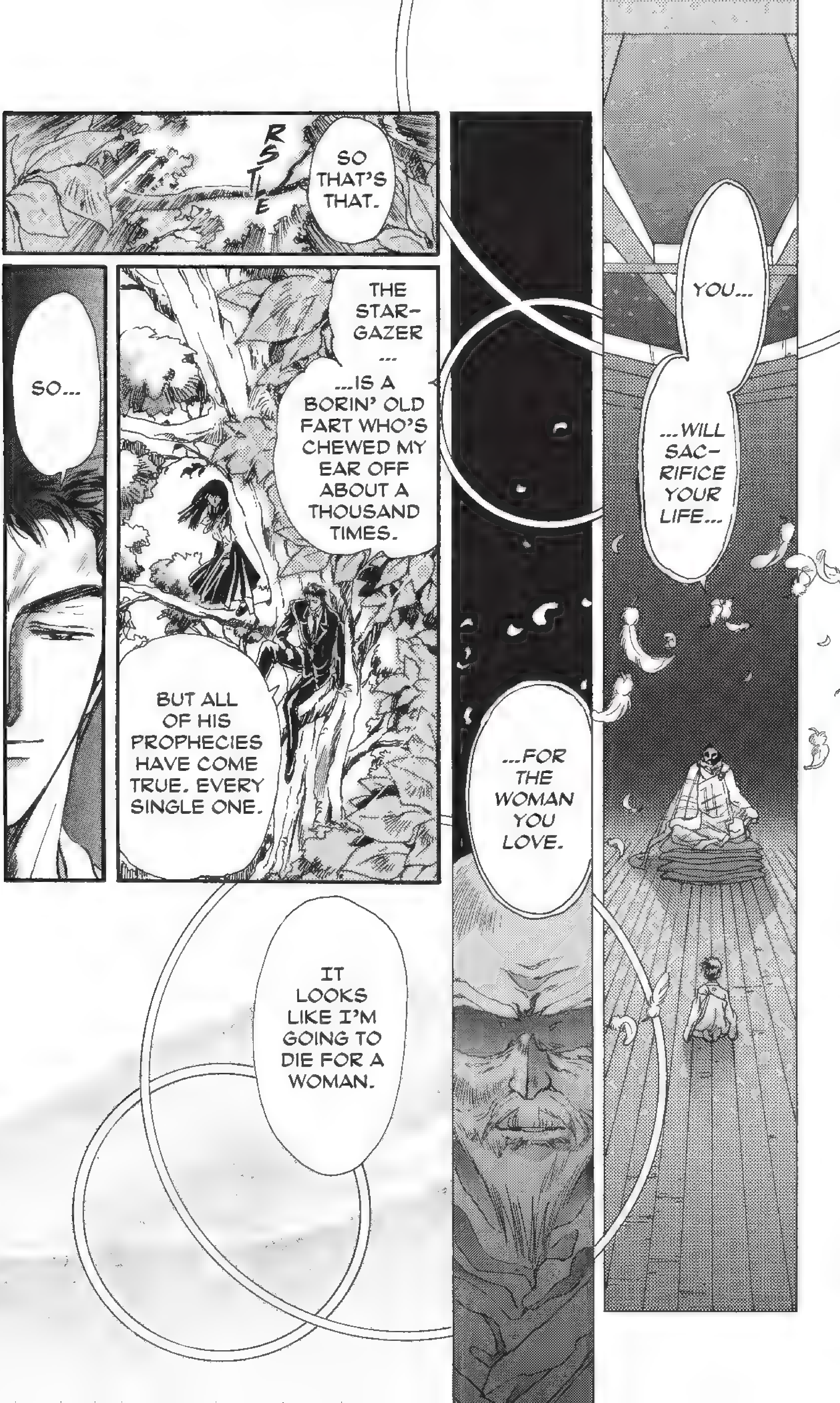

I'D BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU ABOUT—
HUH? ABOUT ME?
TAA DAH
HA HAHAHA HA HA
MY FAVORITE FOOD IS OKONOMIYAKI. KANSAI-STYLE, OF COURSE!
THE KIND WITH NOODLES IS PRETTY DARN TASTY TOO!
I HEARD THERE'S A GOOD PLACE IN TOKYO.
NEXT TIME WE GET A CHANCE—
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
WANNA KNOW HOW MUCH I MAKE?
NOT THAT EITHER.
WHEN WE FIRST MET, YOU SAID I WAS "THE ONE."
BAM!
LIKE I SAID.
I MADE MY DECISION. YOU'RE THE ONE.

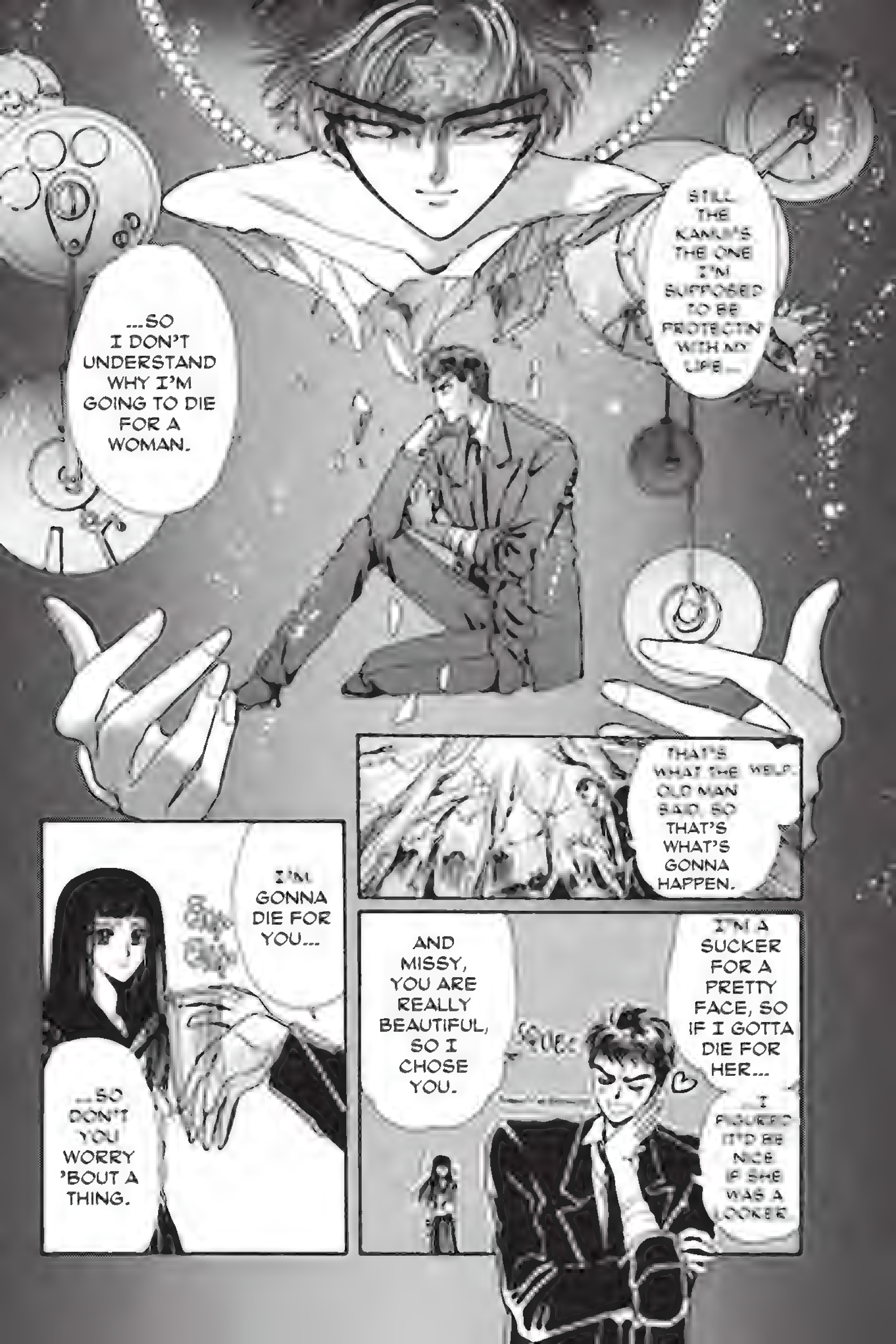

FOR WHAT... EXACTLY ?
YOU'RE THE ONE...
...I GIVE MY LIFE TO.

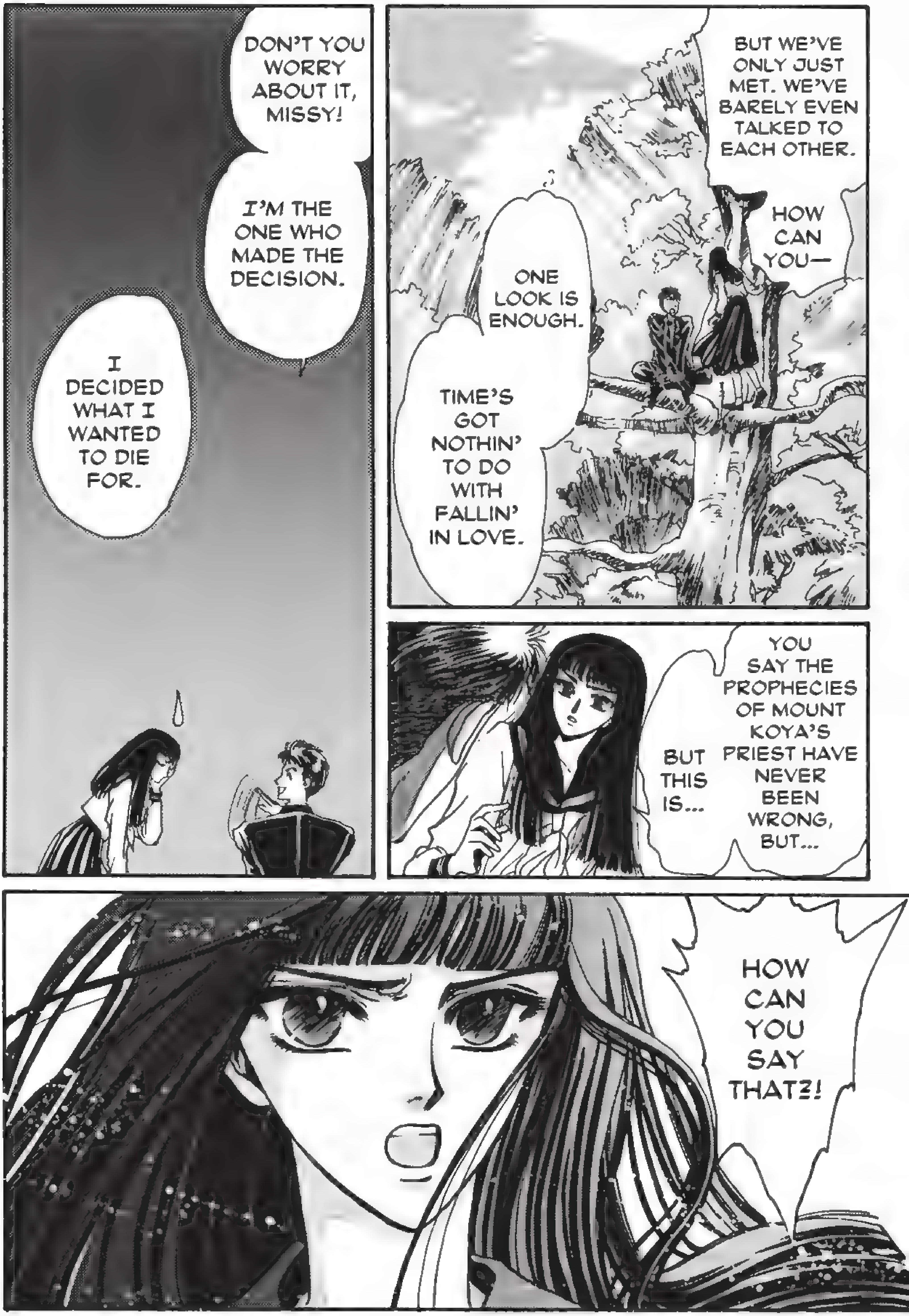

THE OL' STAR-GAZER ...
YOU ...
YOU ...
...WILL BE ONE OF THE SEVEN STARS.
YOU WILL USE YOUR POWER ...
...TO HELP SHAPE THE FATE OF THE WORLD.
SORATA.
...TOLD ME WHEN I WAS AT KOYA.
YOU WILL GO TO THE KAMUI.
YOU WILL...
...AID HIM...

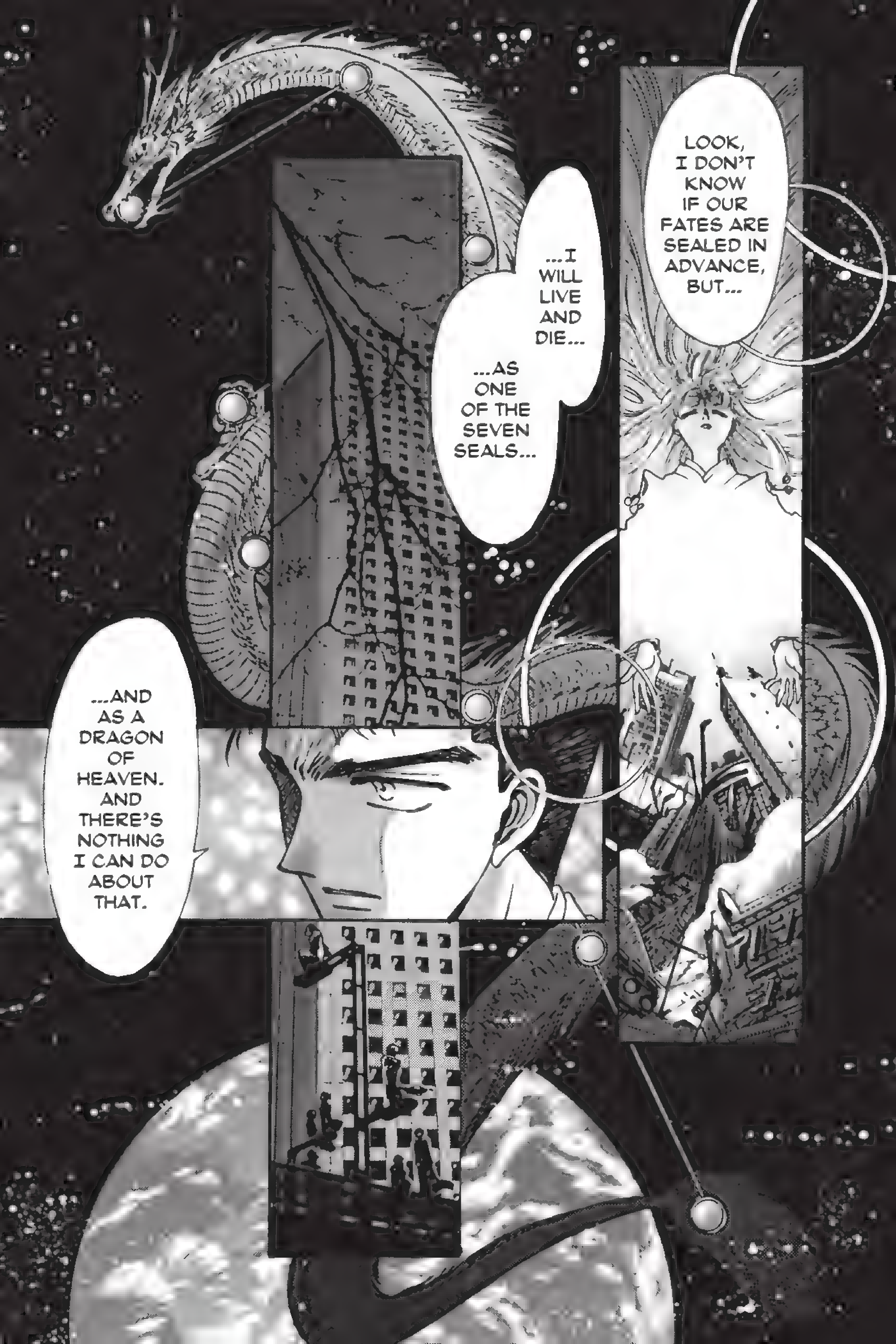

...AND PROTECT HIM...
...EVEN UNTO YOUR LAST BREATH.
HOW-EVER ...

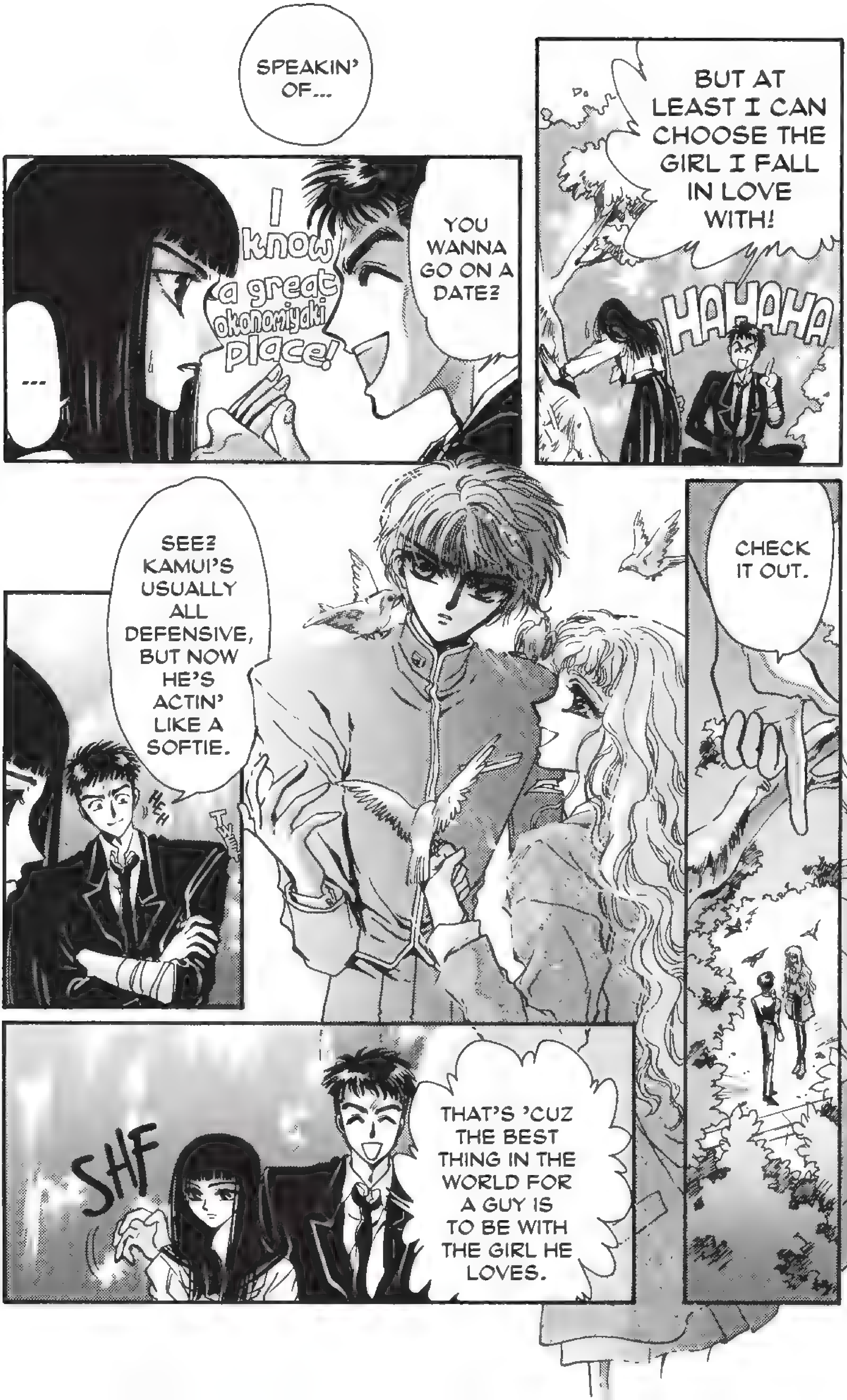

YOUR DEATH WILL COME...
...FOR THE SAKE OF A WOMAN.

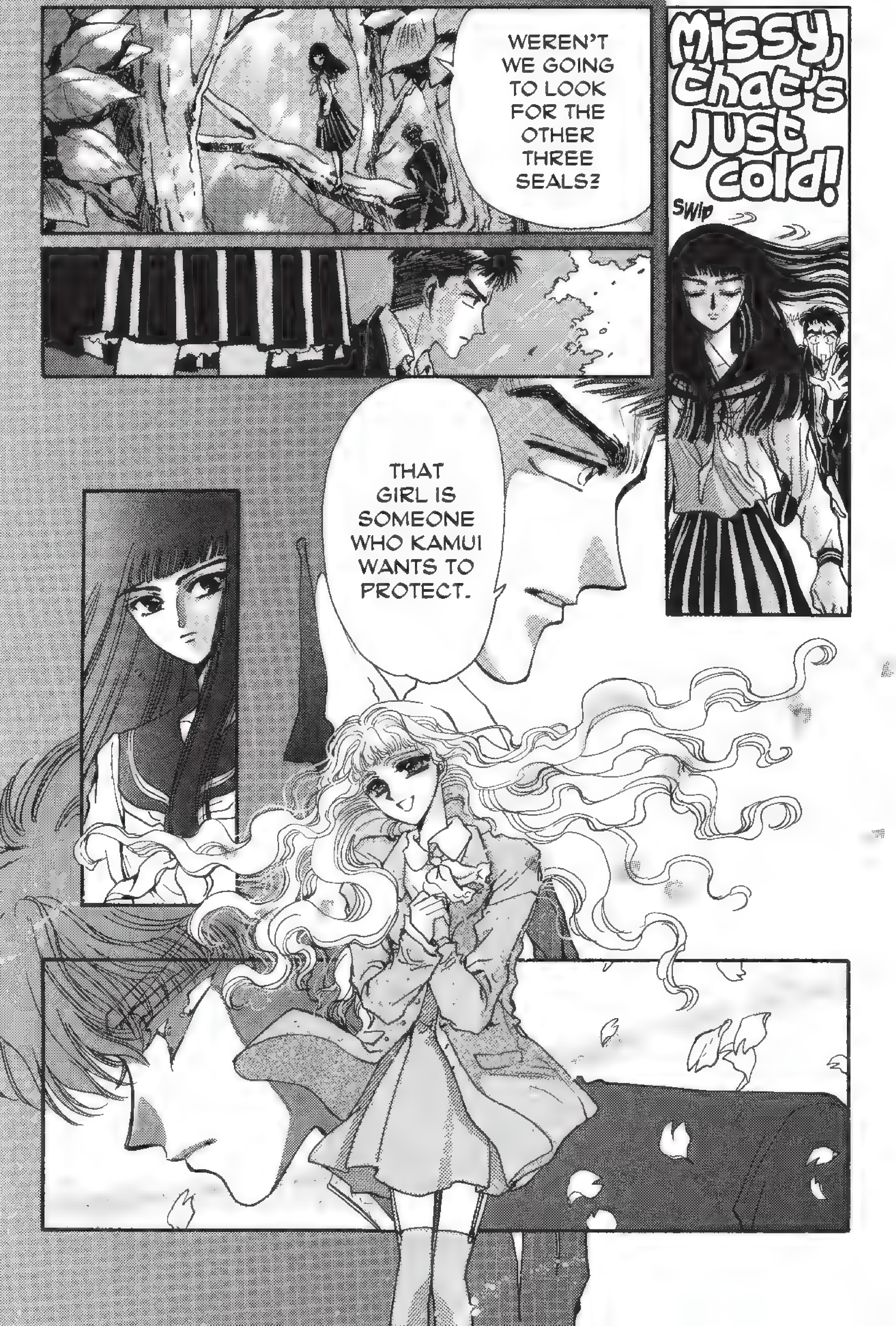

YOU...
...WILL SACRIFICE YOUR LIFE...
...FOR THE WOMAN YOU LOVE.
RSTLE
SO THAT'S THAT.
THE STARGAZER...
...IS A BORIN' OLD FART WHO'S CHEWED MY EAR OFF ABOUT A THOUSAND TIMES.
BUT ALL OF HIS PROPHECIES HAVE COME TRUE. EVERY SINGLE ONE.
SO...
IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO DIE FOR A WOMAN.

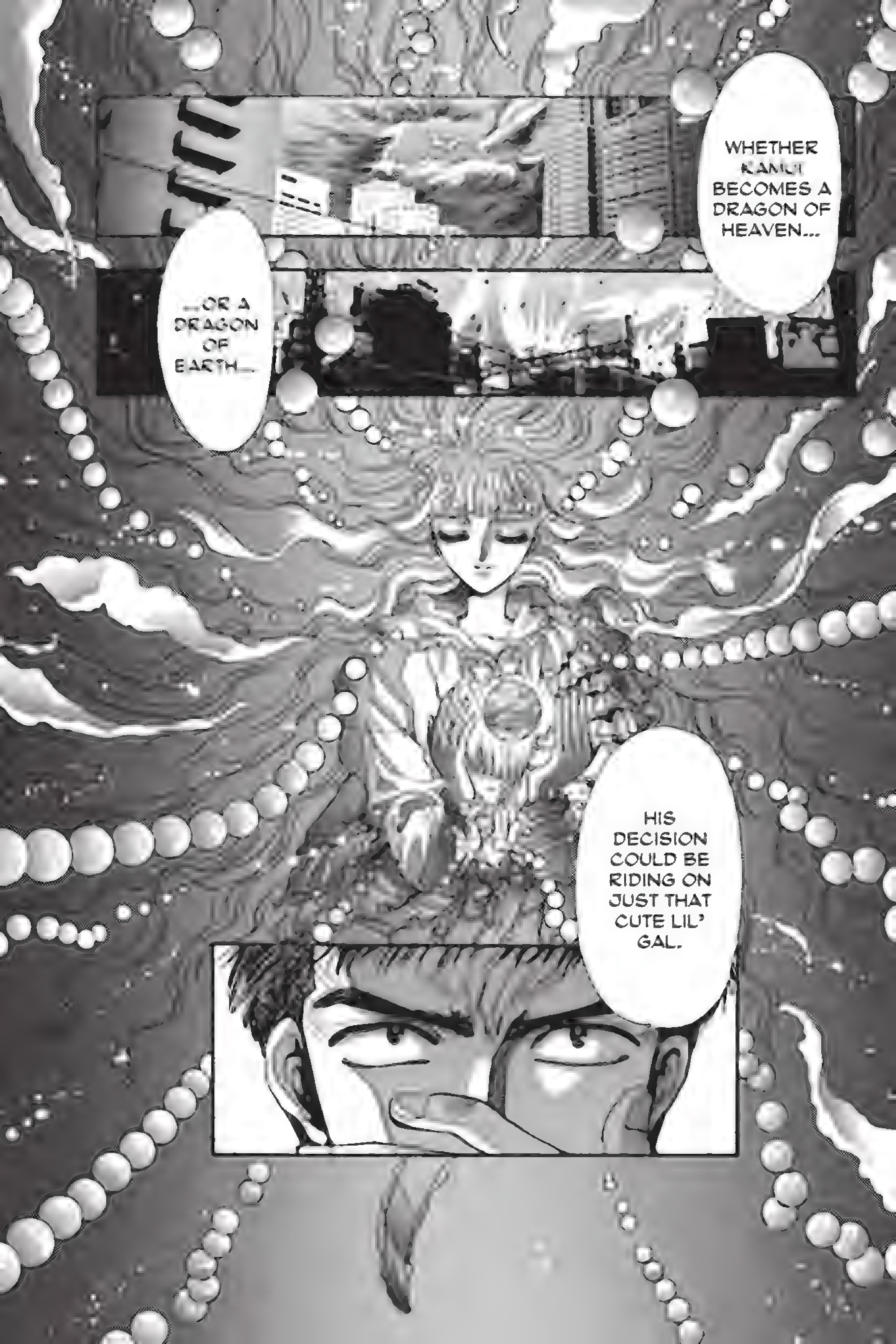

STILL THE KAMUI'S THE ONE I'M SUPPOSED TO BE PROTECTIN' WITH MY LIFE...
...SO I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY I'M GOING TO DIE FOR A WOMAN.
WELP.
THAT'S WHAT THE OLD MAN SAID, SO THAT'S WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN.
I'M A SUCKER FOR A PRETTY FACE, SO IF I GOTTA DIE FOR HER...
...I FIGURED IT'D BE NICE IF SHE WAS A LOOKER.
AND MISSY, YOU ARE REALLY BEAUTIFUL, SO I CHOSE YOU.
I'M GONNA DIE FOR YOU...
...SO DON'T YOU WORRY 'BOUT A THING.

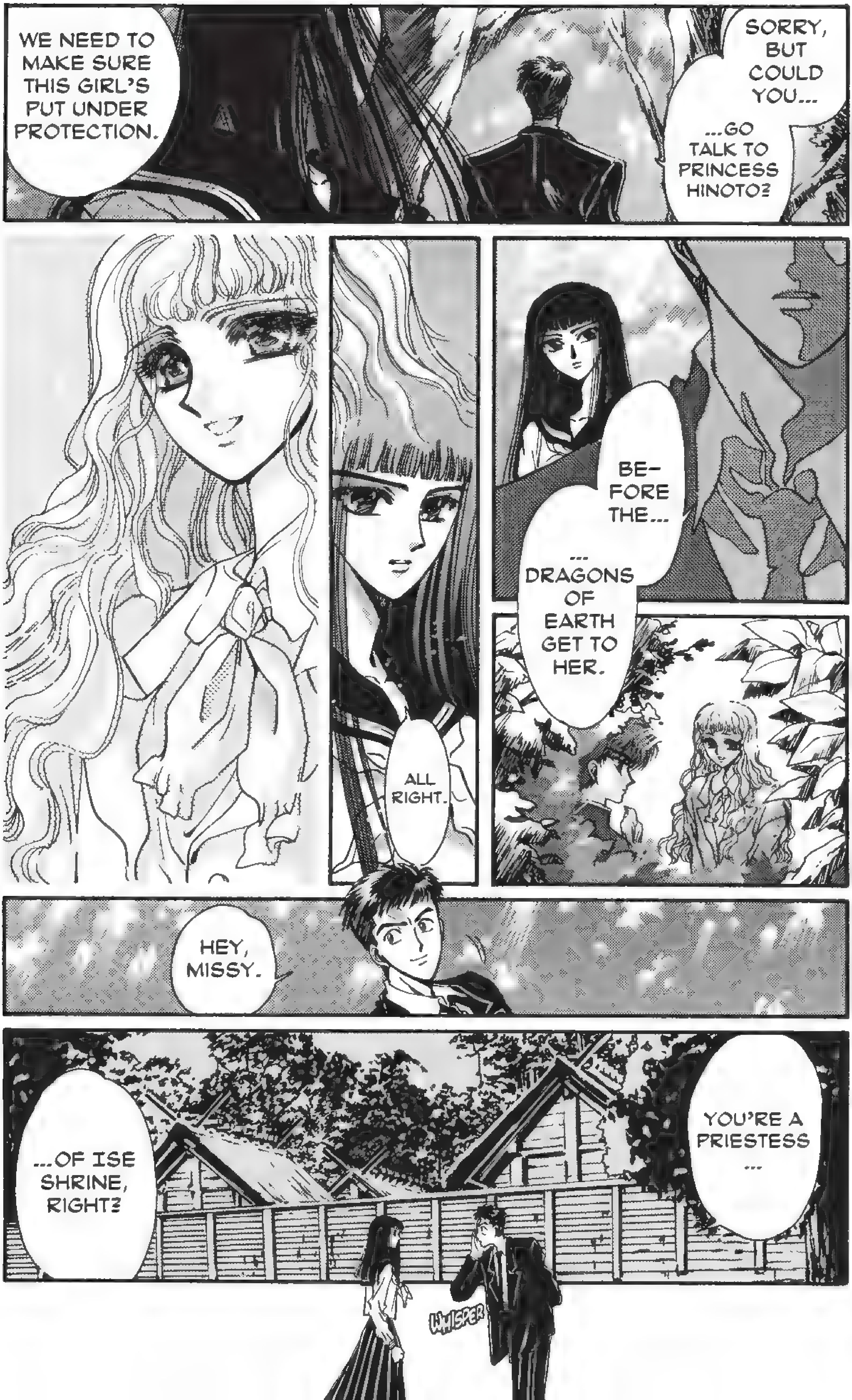

BUT WE'VE ONLY JUST MET. WE'VE BARELY EVEN TALKED TO EACH OTHER.
HOW CAN YOU—
ONE LOOK IS ENOUGH.
TIME'S GOT NOTHIN' TO DO WITH FALLIN' IN LOVE.
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT IT, MISSY!
I'M THE ONE WHO MADE THE DECISION.
I DECIDED WHAT I WANTED TO DIE FOR.
YOU SAY THE PROPHECIES OF MOUNT KOYA'S PRIEST HAVE NEVER BEEN WRONG, BUT...
BUT THIS IS...
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?!

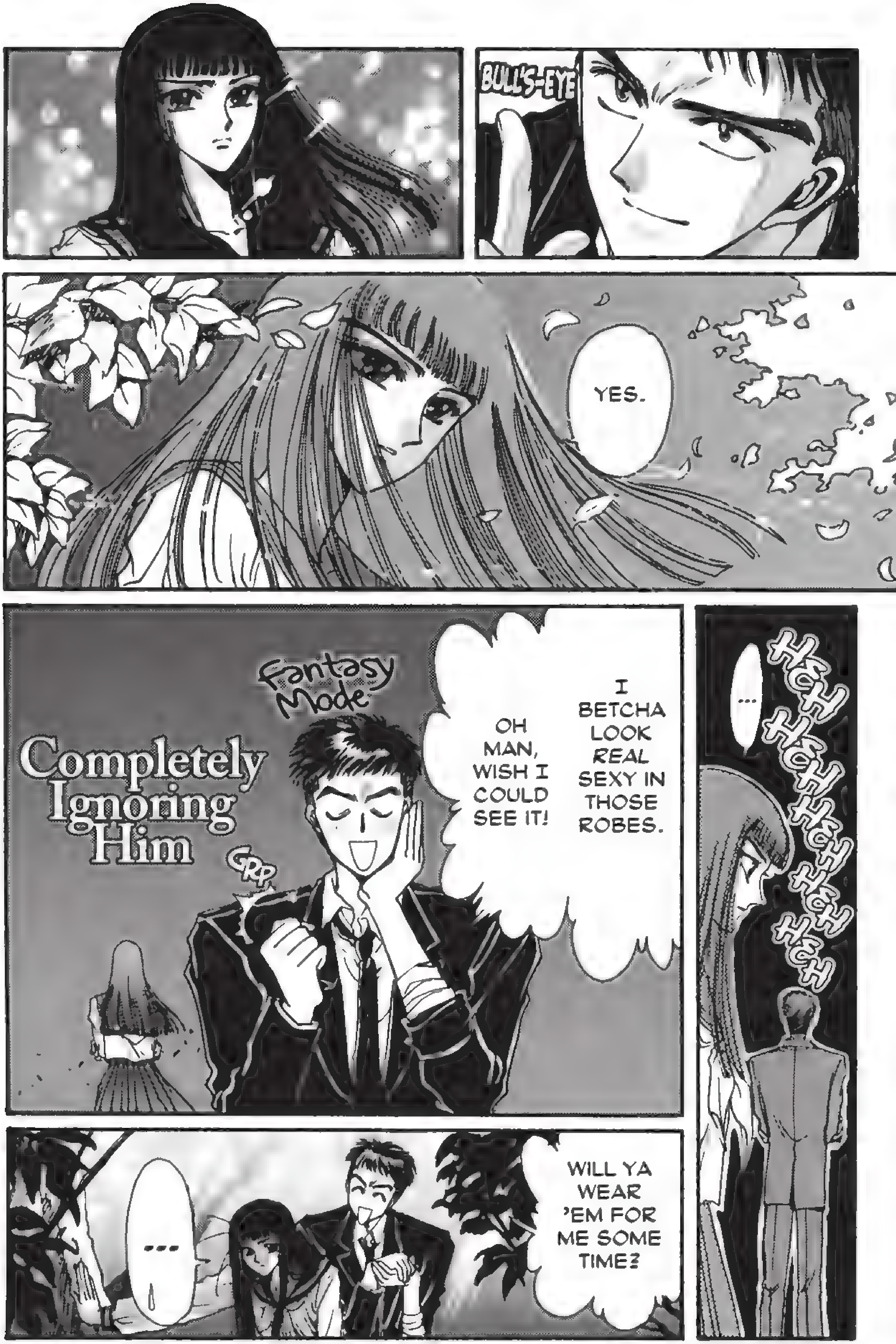

LOOK, I DON'T KNOW IF OUR FATES ARE SEALED IN ADVANCE, BUT...
...I WILL LIVE AND DIE... ...AS ONE OF THE SEVEN SEALS...
...AND AS A DRAGON OF HEAVEN. AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT THAT.

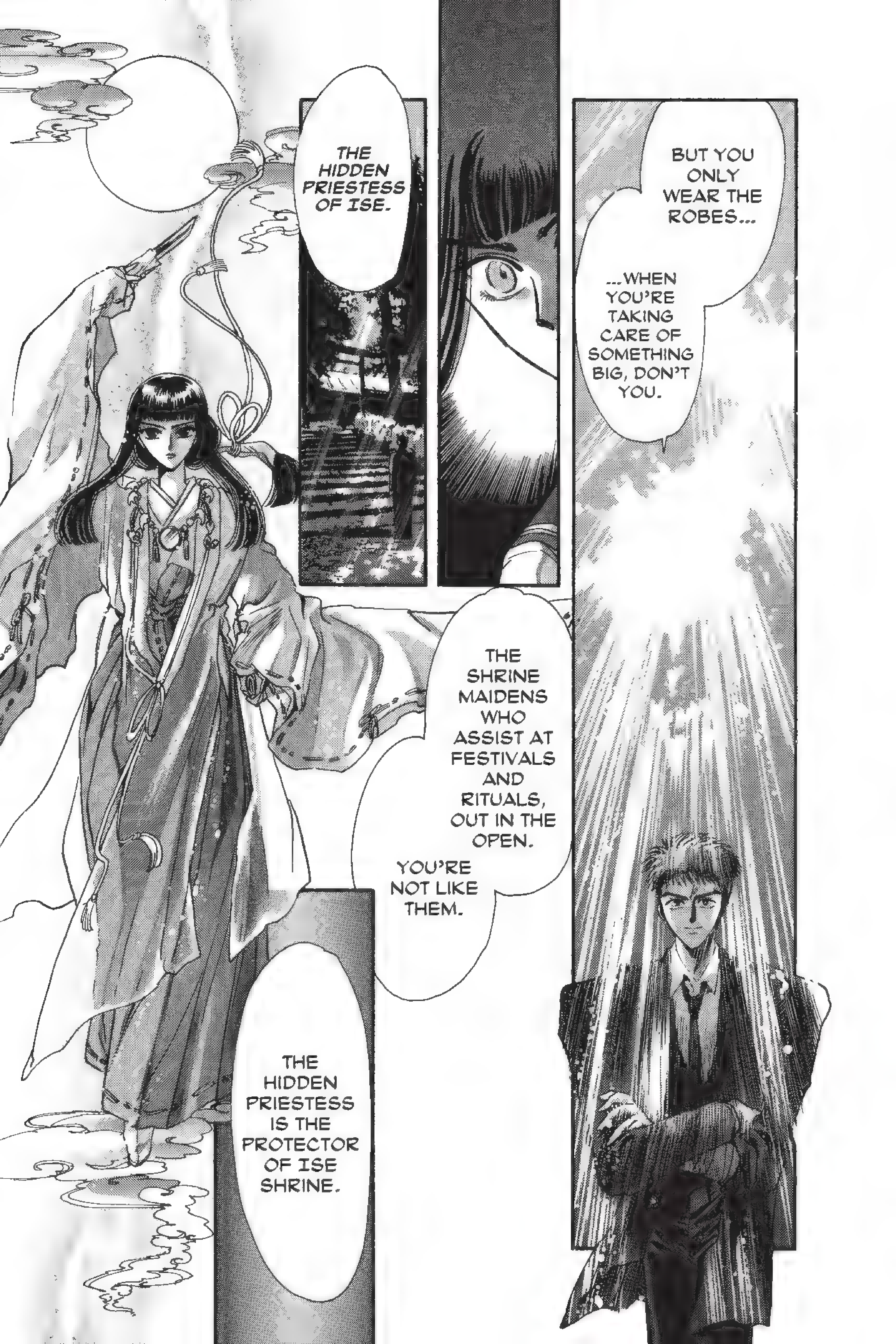

BUT AT LEAST I CAN CHOOSE THE GIRL I FALL IN LOVE WITH!
HAHAHA
SPEAKIN' OF...
YOU WANNA GO ON A DATE?
I know a great okonomiyaki place!
...
CHECK IT OUT.
SEE? KAMUI'S USUALLY ALL DEFENSIVE, BUT NOW HE'S ACTIN' LIKE A SOFTIE.
HEH
TW
THAT'S 'CUZ THE BEST THING IN THE WORLD FOR A GUY IS TO BE WITH THE GIRL HE LOVES.
SHF

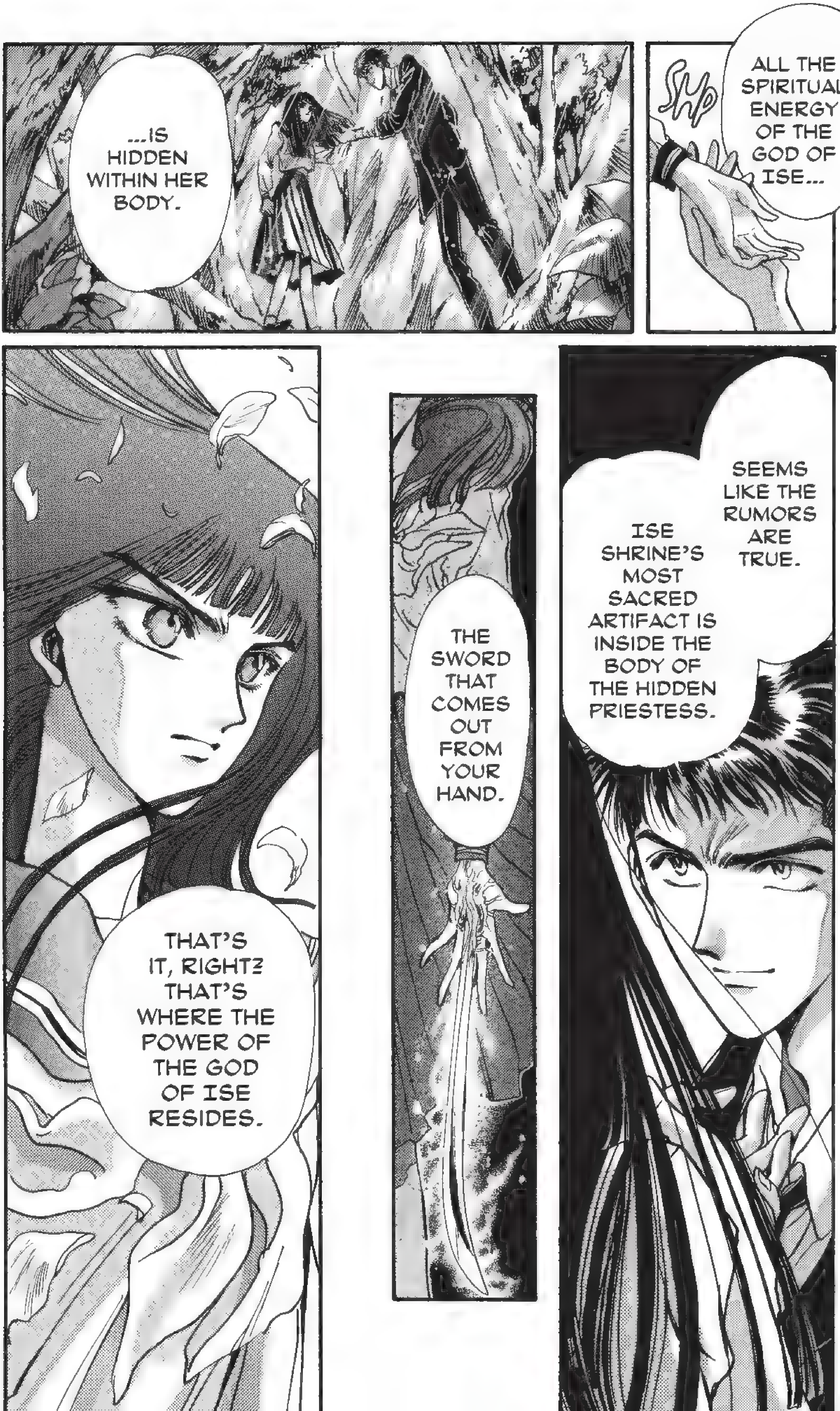

Missy, that's just cold!
SWIP
WEREN'T WE GOING TO LOOK FOR THE OTHER THREE SEALS?
THAT GIRL IS SOMEONE WHO KAMUI WANTS TO PROTECT.

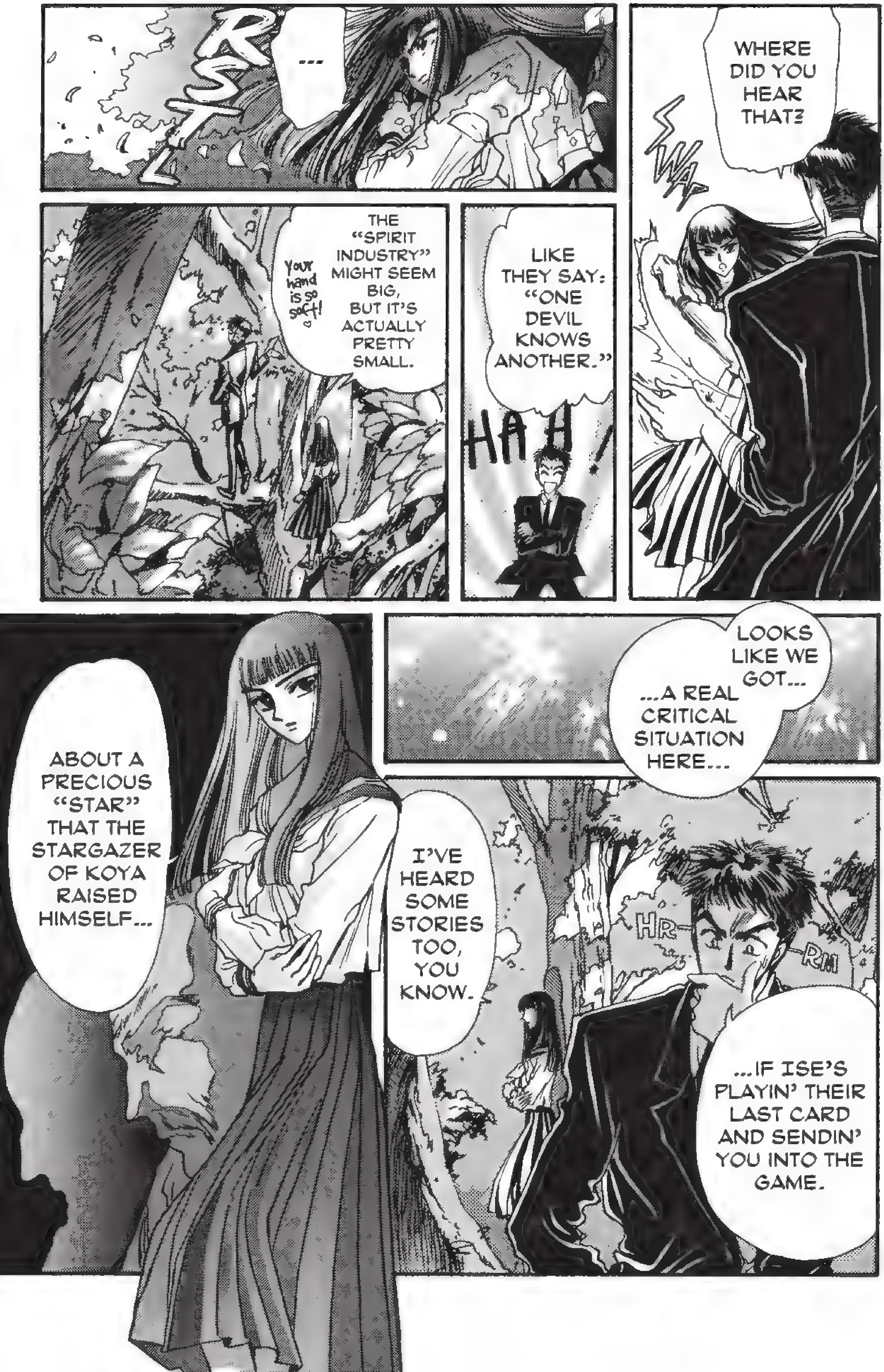

WHETHER KAMUI BECOMES A DRAGON OF HEAVEN...
...OR A DRAGON OF EARTH...
HIS DECISION COULD BE RIDING ON JUST THAT CUTE LIL' GAL.

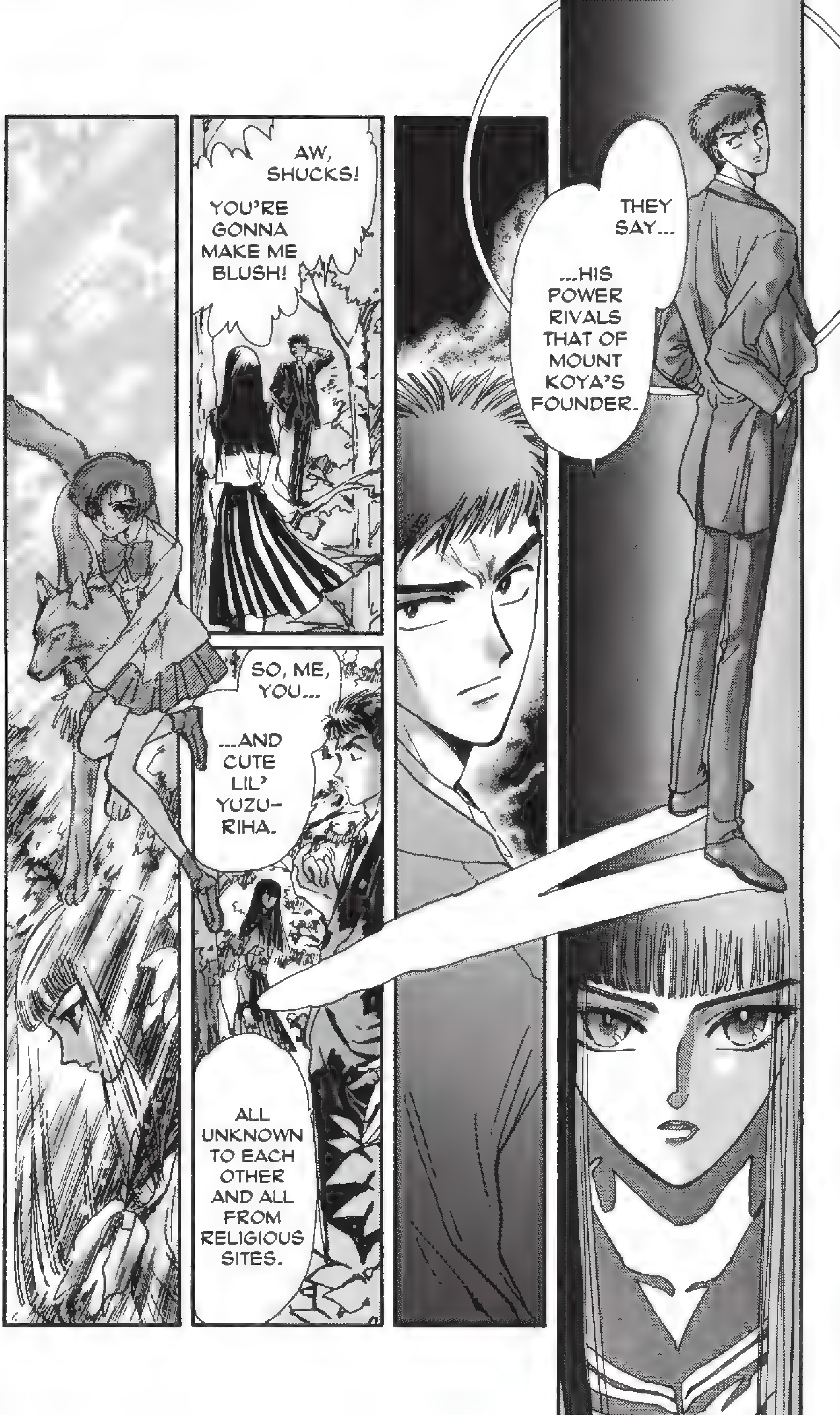

SORRY, BUT COULD YOU...
...GO TALK TO PRINCESS HINOTO?
WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THIS GIRL'S PUT UNDER PROTECTION.
BE-FORE THE...
...DRAGONS OF EARTH GET TO HER.
ALL RIGHT.
HEY, MISSY.
YOU'RE A PRIESTESS...
...OF ISE SHRINE, RIGHT?
WHISPER

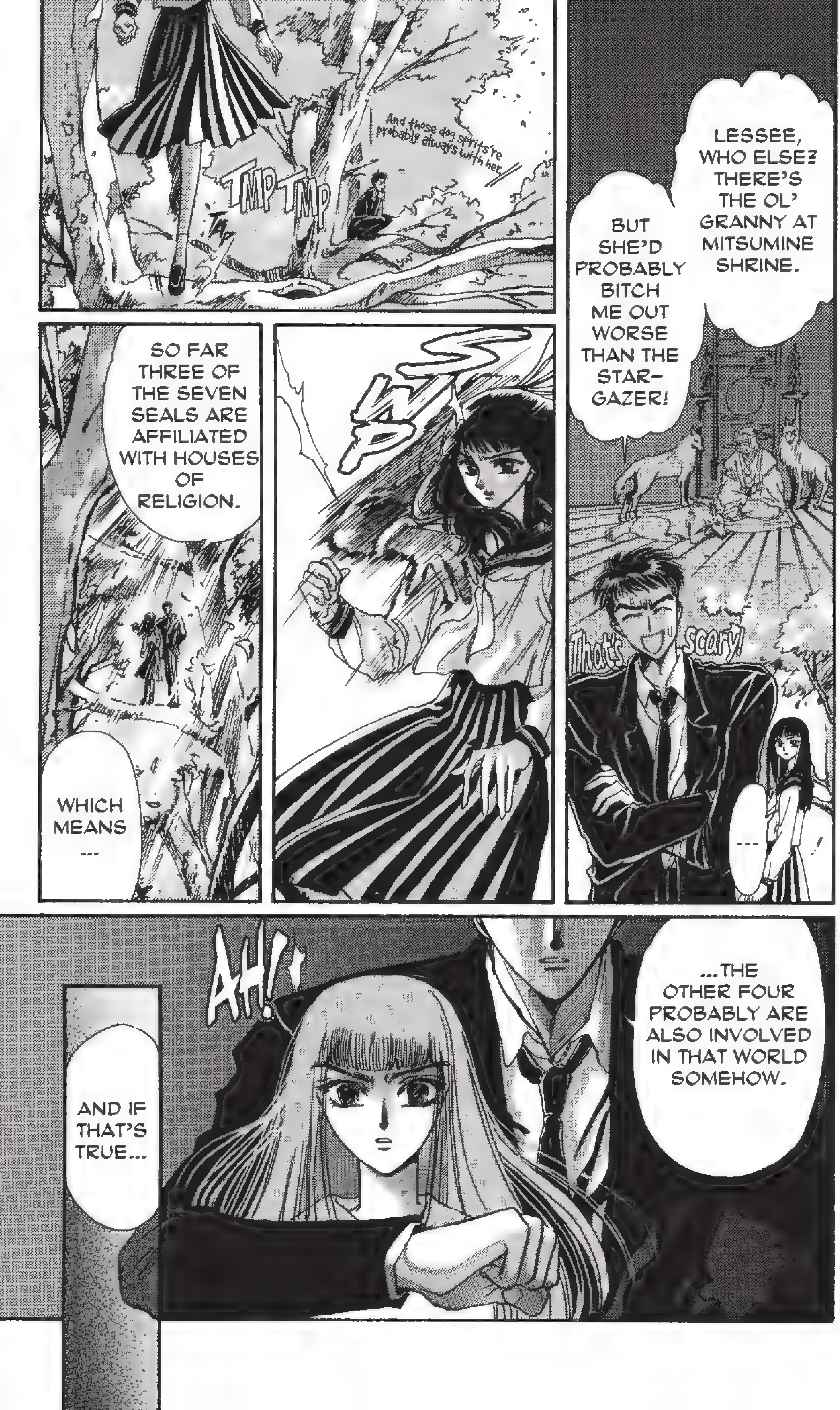

BULL'S-EYE
YES.
I BETCHA LOOK *REAL* SEXY IN THOSE ROBES.
OH MAN, WISH I COULD SEE IT!
Fantasy Mode
Completely Ignoring Him
GRP
WILL YA WEAR 'EM FOR ME SOME TIME?
...
...
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH

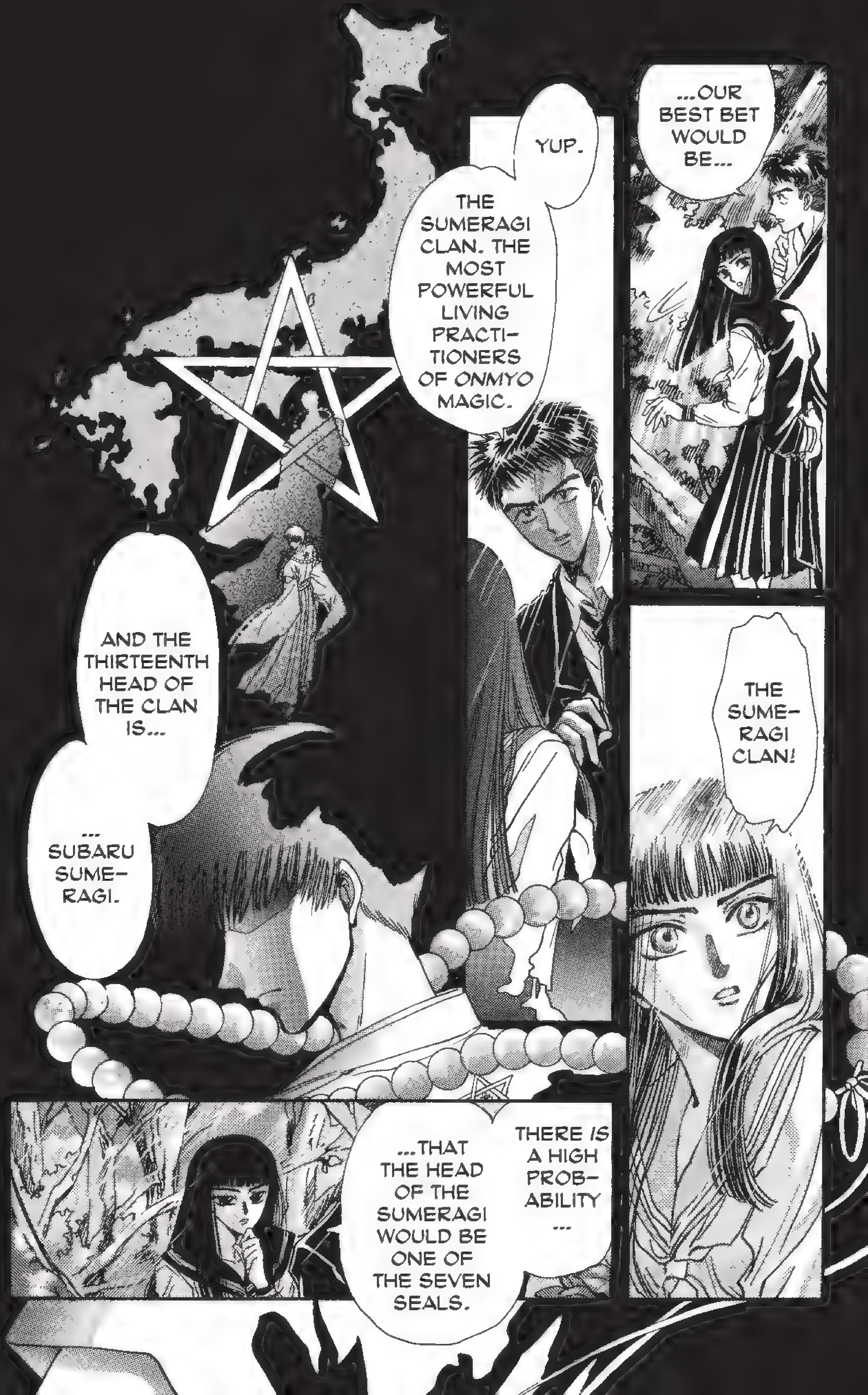

BUT YOU ONLY WEAR THE ROBES...
...WHEN YOU'RE TAKING CARE OF SOMETHING BIG, DON'T YOU.
THE HIDDEN PRIESTESS OF ISE.
THE SHRINE MAIDENS WHO ASSIST AT FESTIVALS AND RITUALS, OUT IN THE OPEN.
YOU'RE NOT LIKE THEM.
THE HIDDEN PRIESTESS IS THE PROTECTOR OF ISE SHRINE.

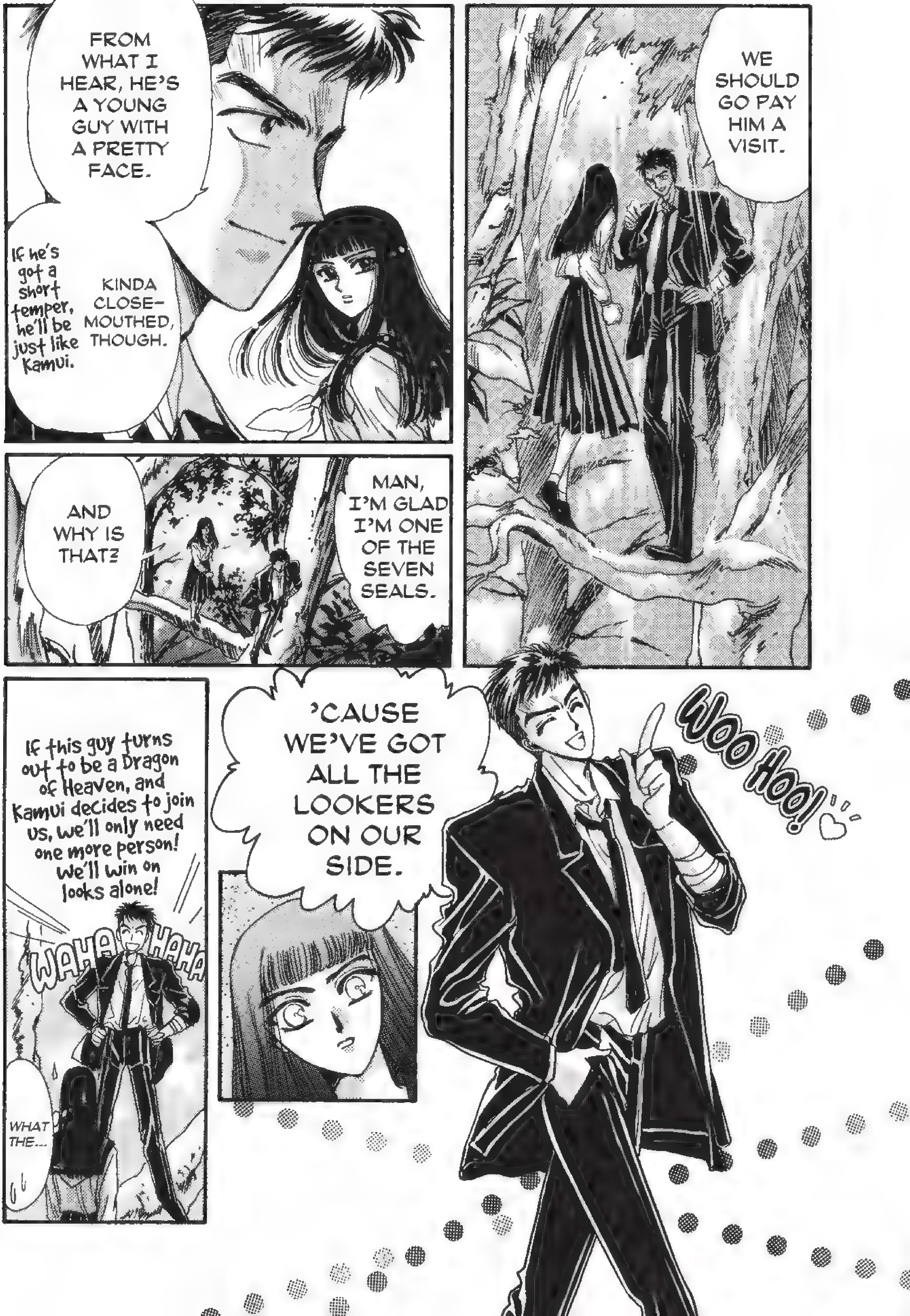

SHP
ALL THE SPIRITUAL ENERGY OF THE GOD OF ISE...
...IS HIDDEN WITHIN HER BODY.
SEEMS LIKE THE RUMORS ARE TRUE.
ISE SHRINE'S MOST SACRED ARTIFACT IS INSIDE THE BODY OF THE HIDDEN PRIESTESS.
THE SWORD THAT COMES OUT FROM YOUR HAND.
THAT'S IT, RIGHT? THAT'S WHERE THE POWER OF THE GOD OF ISE RESIDES.

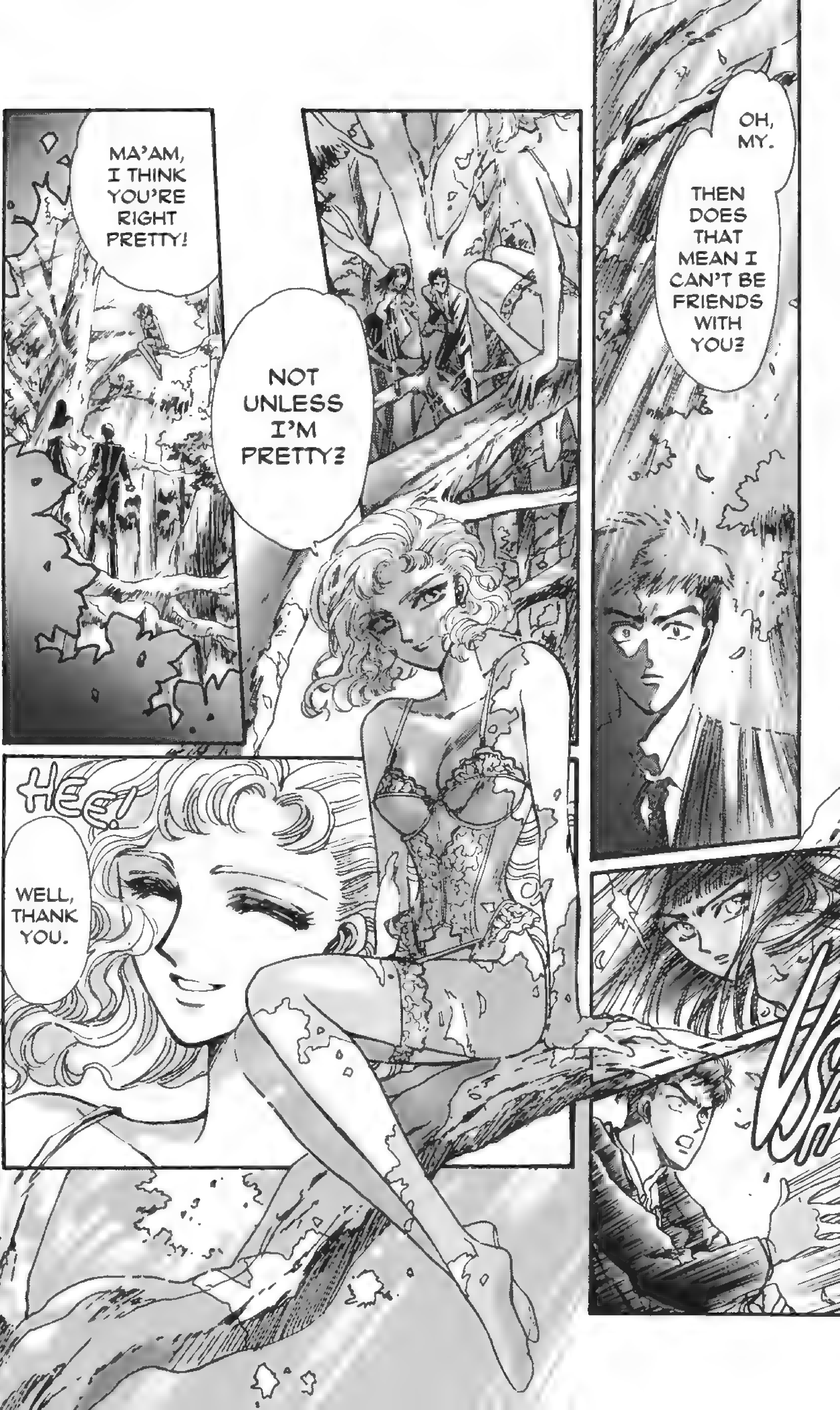

RSTL
...
SWAP
WHERE DID YOU HEAR THAT?
LIKE THEY SAY: "ONE DEVIL KNOWS ANOTHER."
HAH!
THE "SPIRIT INDUSTRY" MIGHT SEEM BIG, BUT IT'S ACTUALLY PRETTY SMALL.
Your hand is so soft! ♡
LOOKS LIKE WE GOT...
...A REAL CRITICAL SITUATION HERE...
HR-RM
...IF ISE'S PLAYIN' THEIR LAST CARD AND SENDIN' YOU INTO THE GAME.
I'VE HEARD SOME STORIES TOO, YOU KNOW.
ABOUT A PRECIOUS "STAR" THAT THE STARGAZER OF KOYA RAISED HIMSELF...

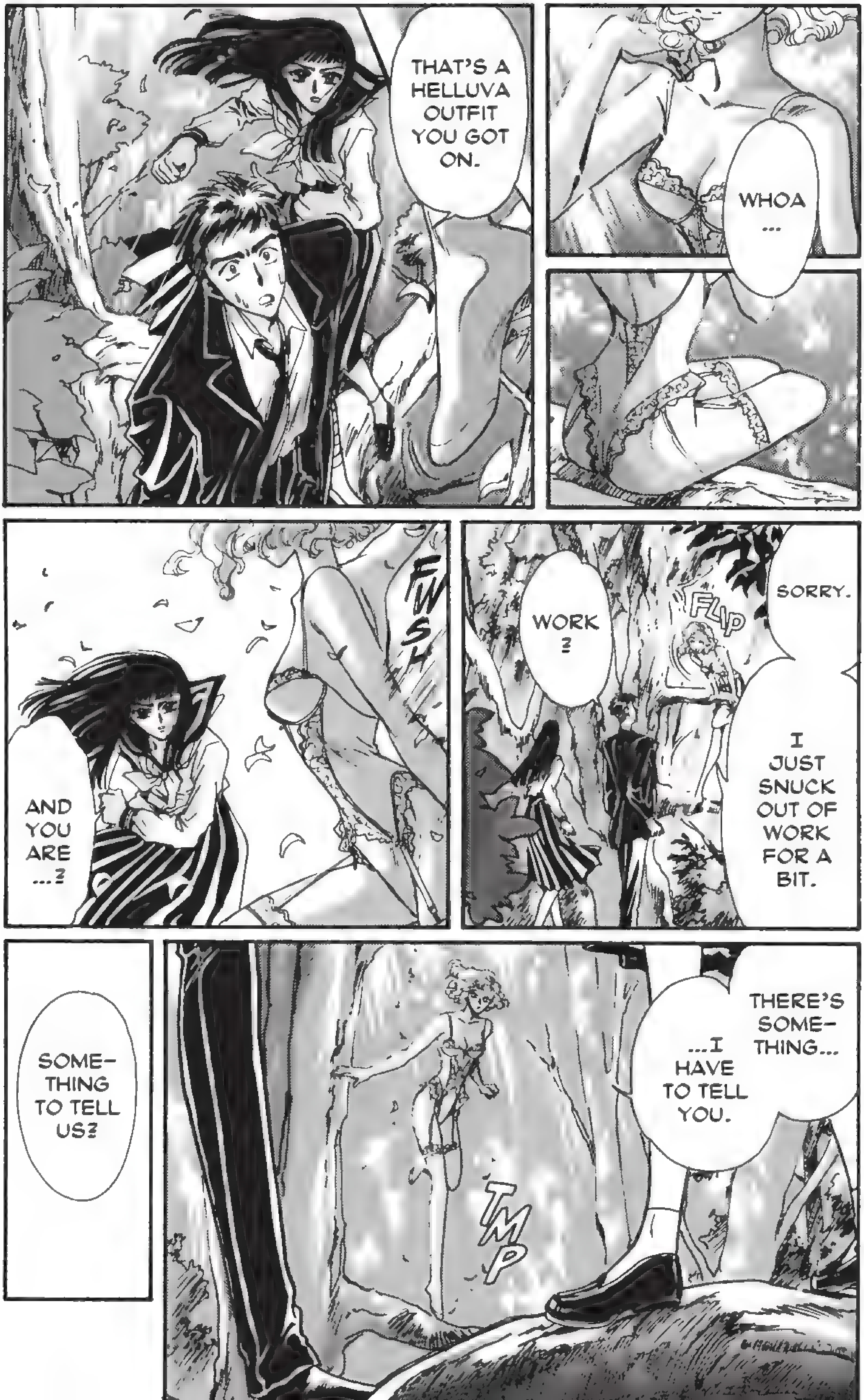

THEY SAY... ...HIS POWER RIVALS THAT OF MOUNT KOYA'S FOUNDER.
AW, SHUCKS! YOU'RE GONNA MAKE ME BLUSH!
SO, ME, YOU... ...AND CUTE LIL' YUZURIHA.
ALL UNKNOWN TO EACH OTHER AND ALL FROM RELIGIOUS SITES.

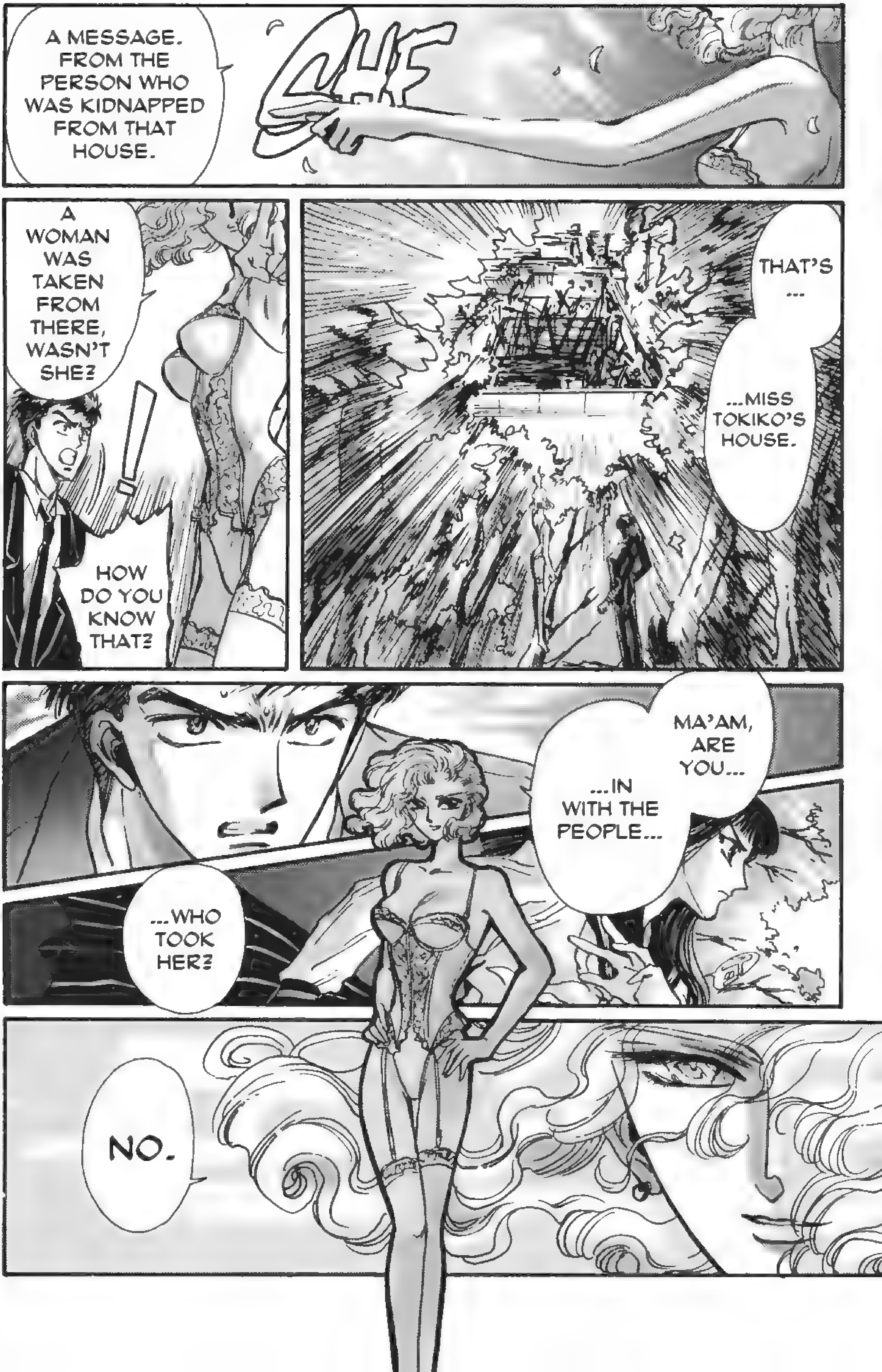

LESSEE, WHO ELSE? THERE'S THE OL' GRANNY AT MITSUMINE SHRINE.
BUT SHE'D PROBABLY BITCH ME OUT WORSE THAN THE STAR-GAZER!
And those dog sprits're probably always with her.
TMP TMP
TAP
That's scary!
...
!
SWP
SO FAR THREE OF THE SEVEN SEALS ARE AFFILIATED WITH HOUSES OF RELIGION.
WHICH MEANS ...
...THE OTHER FOUR PROBABLY ARE ALSO INVOLVED IN THAT WORLD SOMEHOW.
AH!
AND IF THAT'S TRUE...

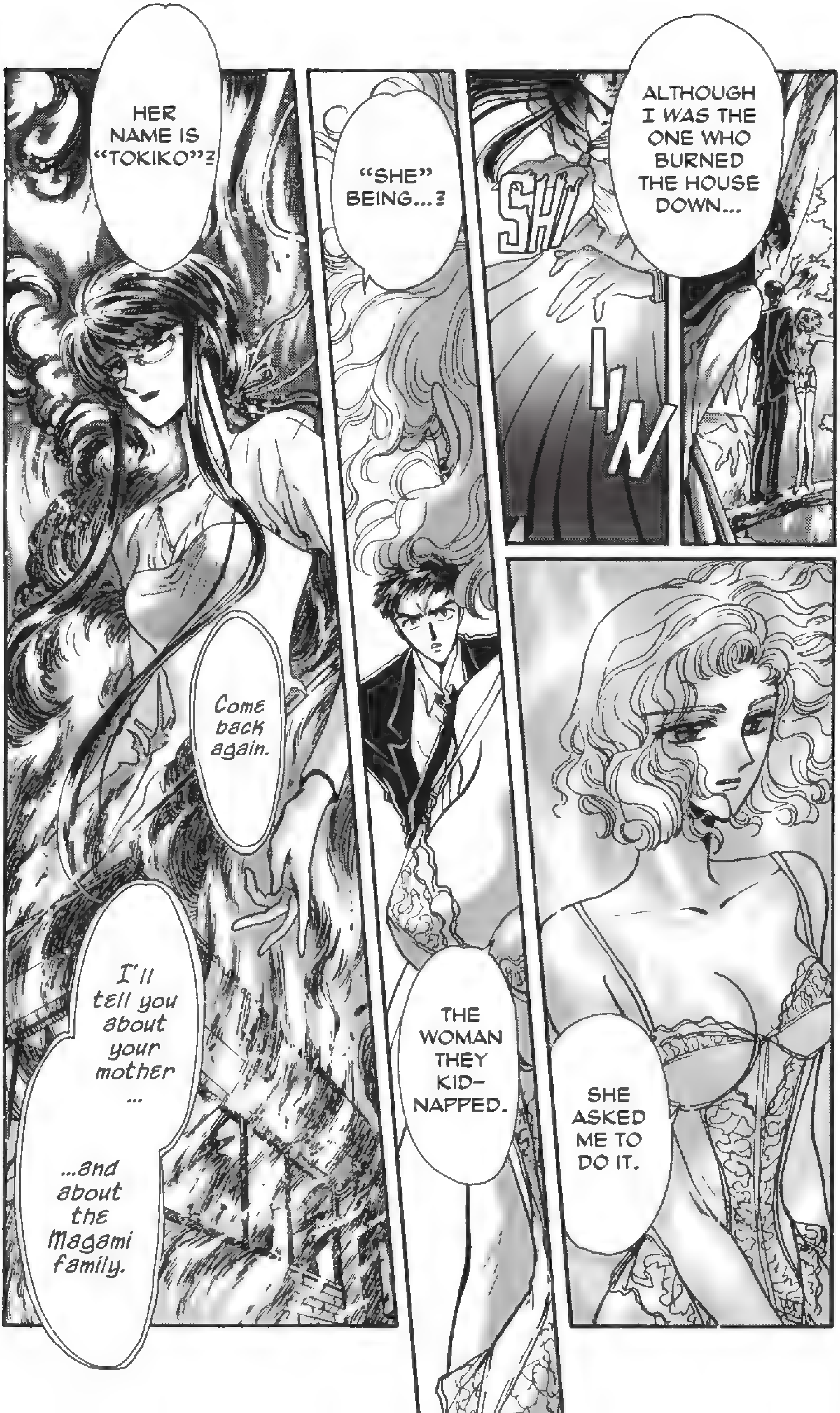

...OUR BEST BET WOULD BE...
THE SUMERAGI CLAN!
YUP.
THE SUMERAGI CLAN. THE MOST POWERFUL LIVING PRACTITIONERS OF ONMYO MAGIC.
AND THE THIRTEENTH HEAD OF THE CLAN IS...
...SUBARU SUMERAGI.
THERE *IS* A HIGH PROBABILITY...
...THAT THE HEAD OF THE SUMERAGI WOULD BE ONE OF THE SEVEN SEALS.

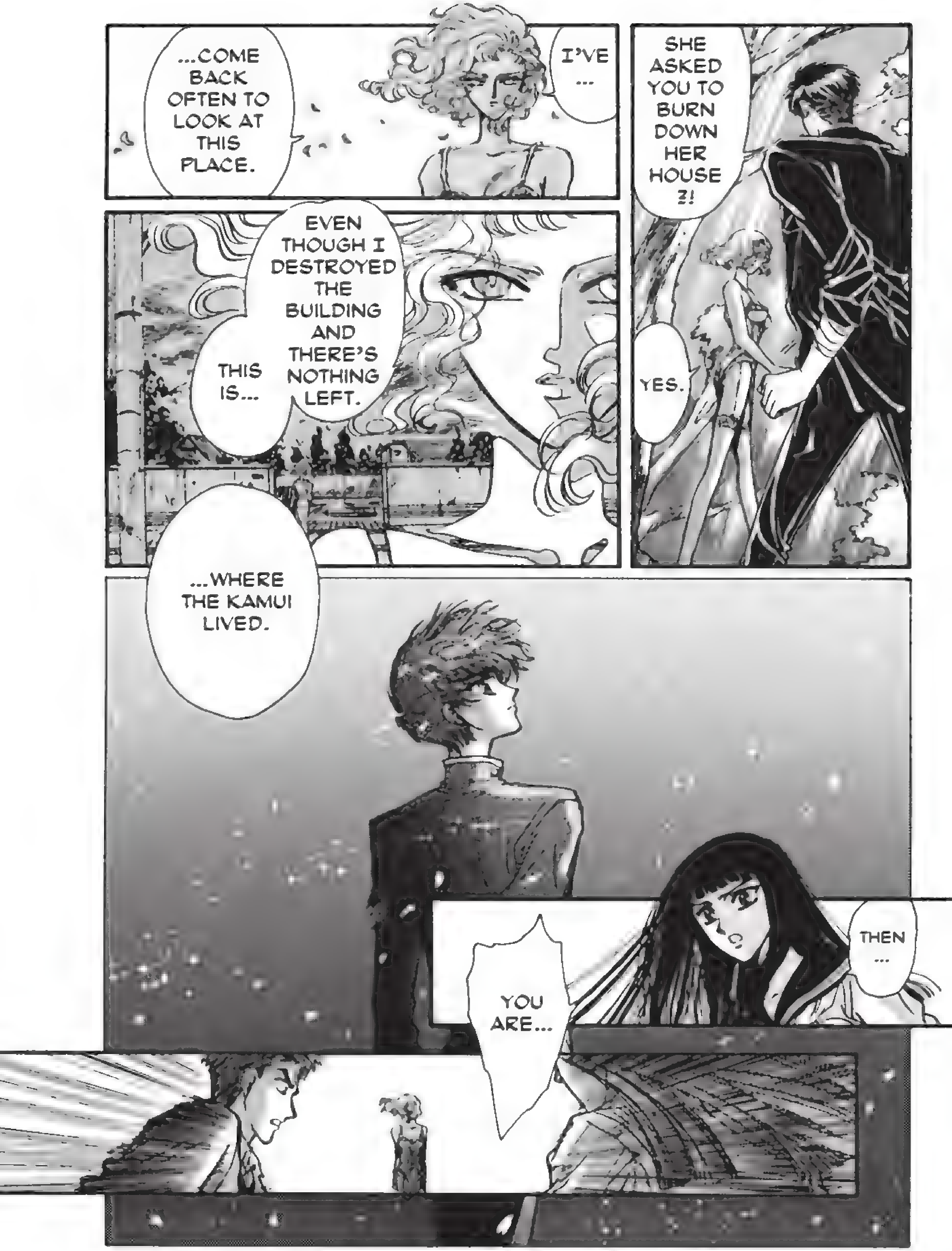

WE SHOULD GO PAY HIM A VISIT.
FROM WHAT I HEAR, HE'S A YOUNG GUY WITH A PRETTY FACE.
KINDA CLOSE-MOUTHED, THOUGH.
If he's got a short temper, he'll be just like Kamui.
MAN, I'M GLAD I'M ONE OF THE SEVEN SEALS.
AND WHY IS THAT?
'CAUSE WE'VE GOT ALL THE LOOKERS ON OUR SIDE.
Woo Hoo!
If this guy turns out to be a Dragon of Heaven, and Kamui decides to join us, we'll only need one more person! We'll win on looks alone!
WAHAHAHAHA
WHAT THE...

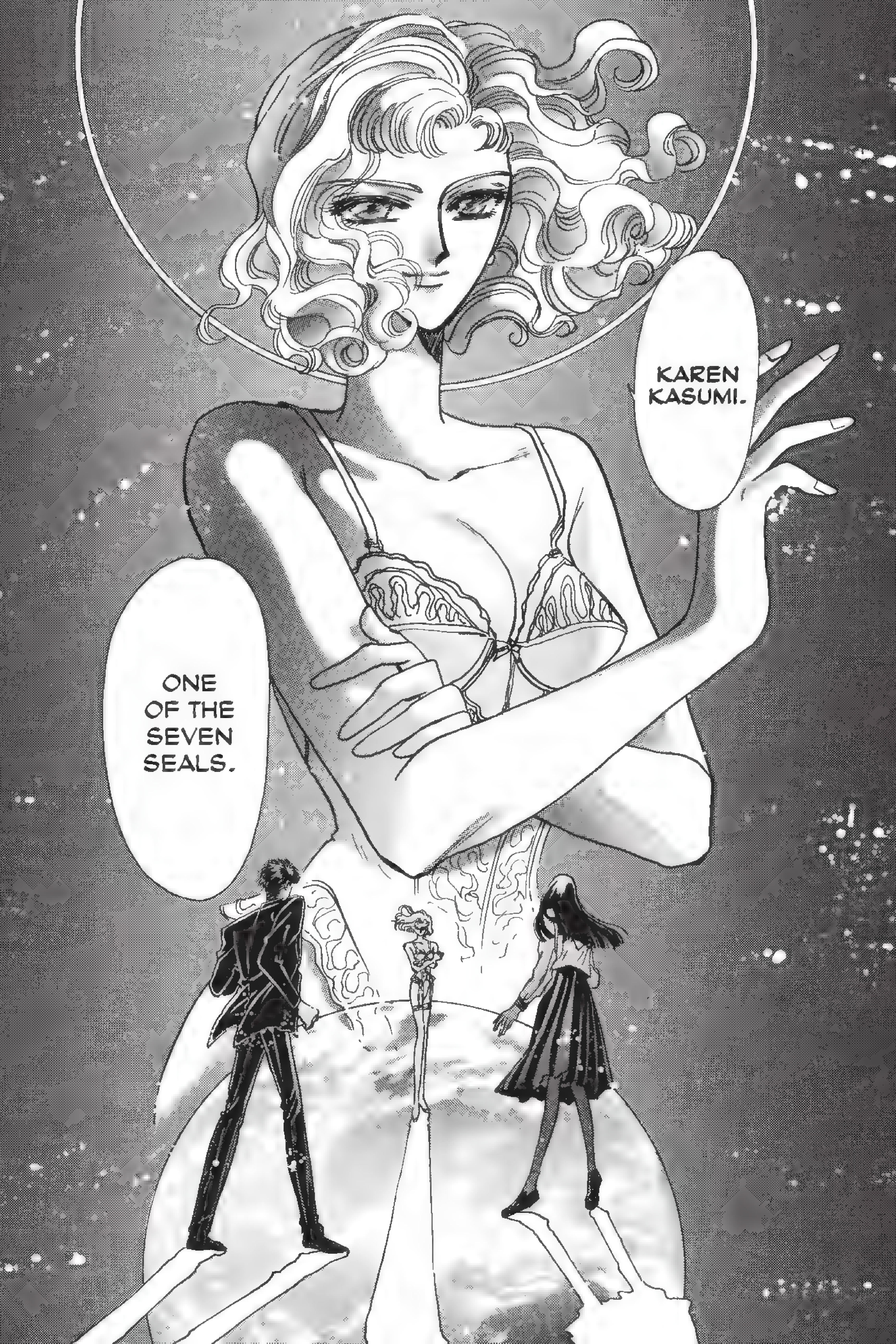

OH, MY.
THEN DOES THAT MEAN I CAN'T BE FRIENDS WITH YOU?
NOT UNLESS I'M PRETTY?
MA'AM, I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT PRETTY!
HEE!
WELL, THANK YOU.

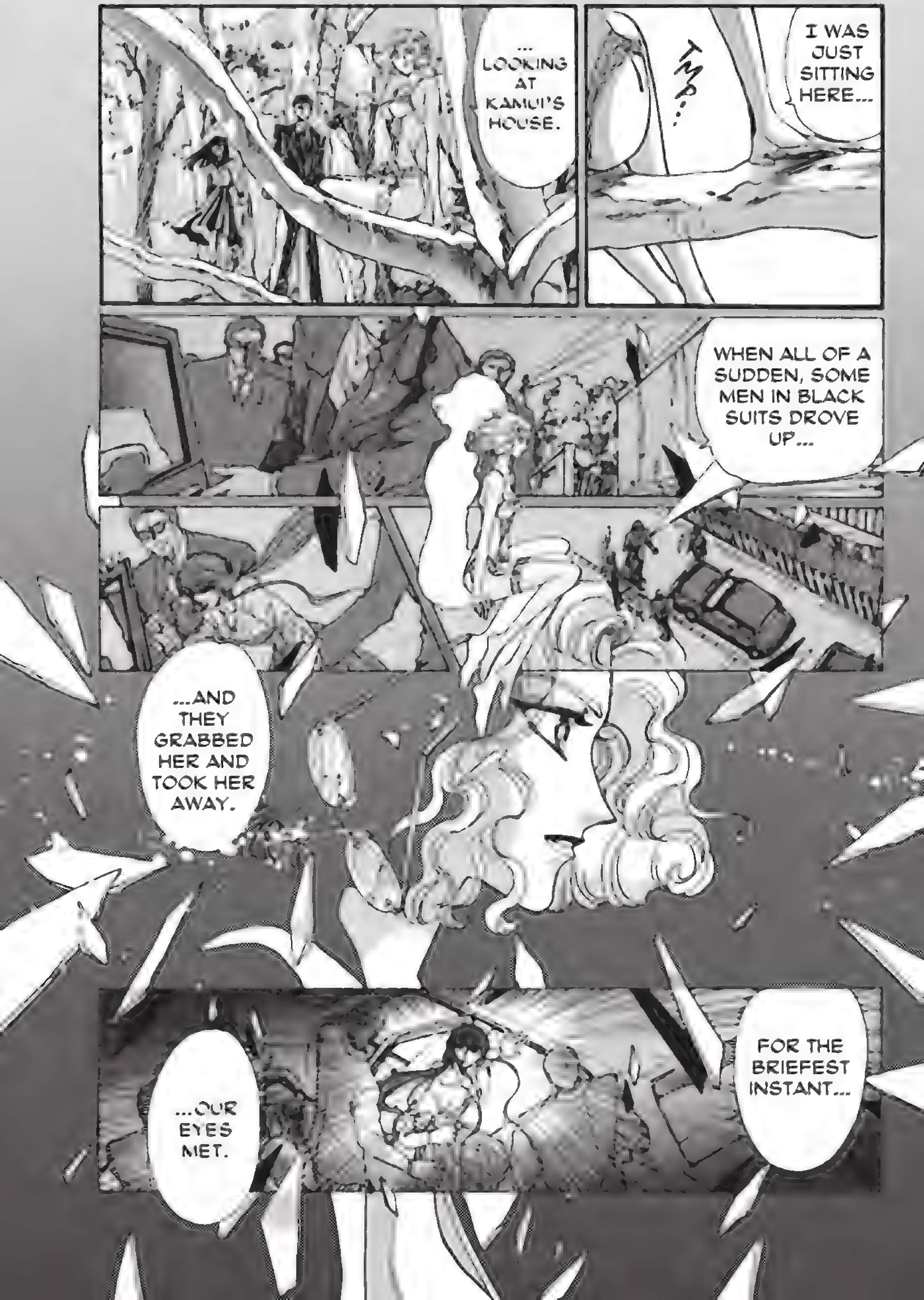

THAT'S A HELLUVA OUTFIT YOU GOT ON.
WHOA ...
FWSH
AND YOU ARE ...?
SORRY.
I JUST SNUCK OUT OF WORK FOR A BIT.
FLIP
WORK?
THERE'S SOMETHING...
...I HAVE TO TELL YOU.
TMP
SOMETHING TO TELL US?

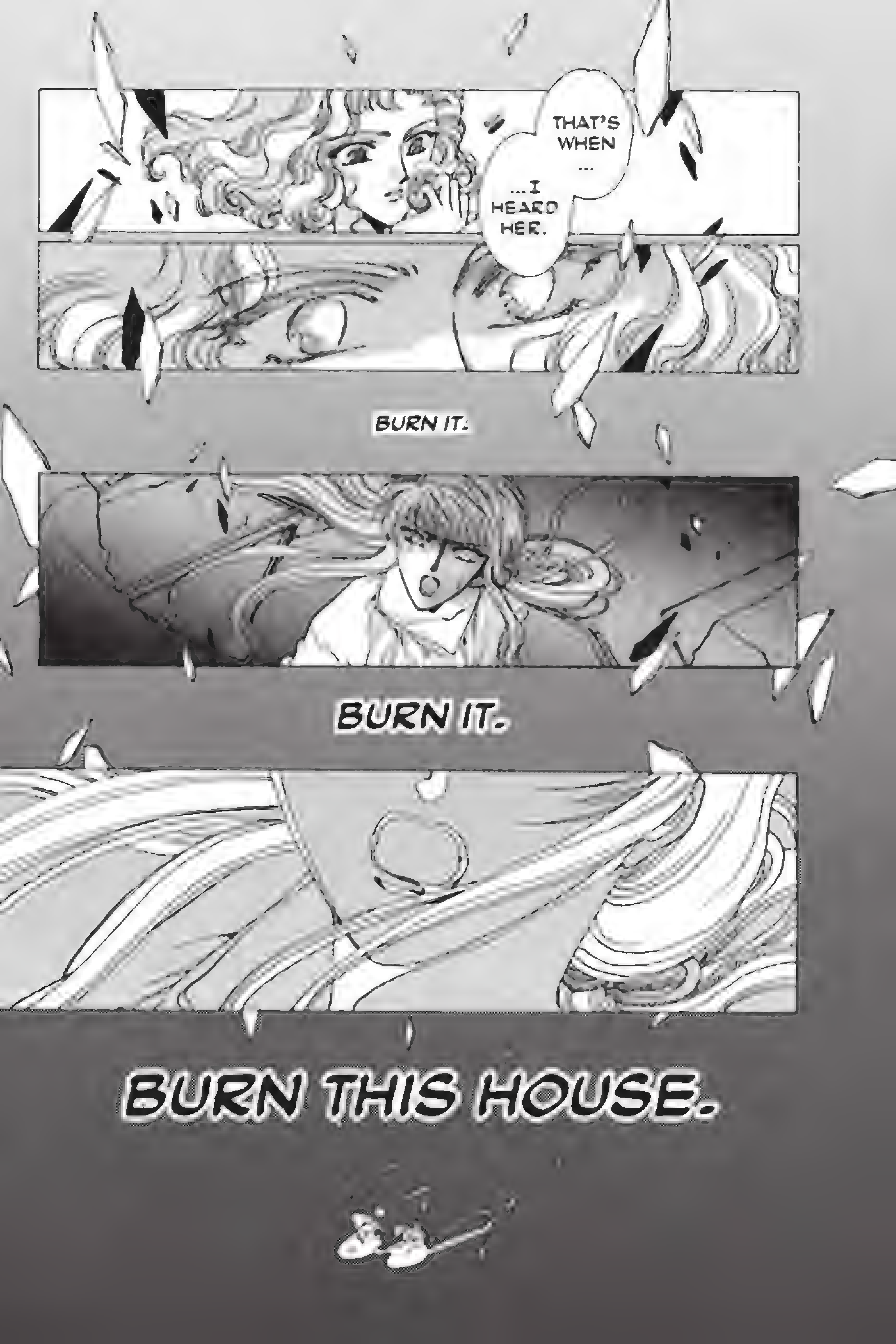

A MESSAGE. FROM THE PERSON WHO WAS KIDNAPPED FROM THAT HOUSE.
THAT'S...
...MISS TOKIKO'S HOUSE.
A WOMAN WAS TAKEN FROM THERE, WASN'T SHE?
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?
MA'AM, ARE YOU...
...IN WITH THE PEOPLE...
...WHO TOOK HER?
NO.

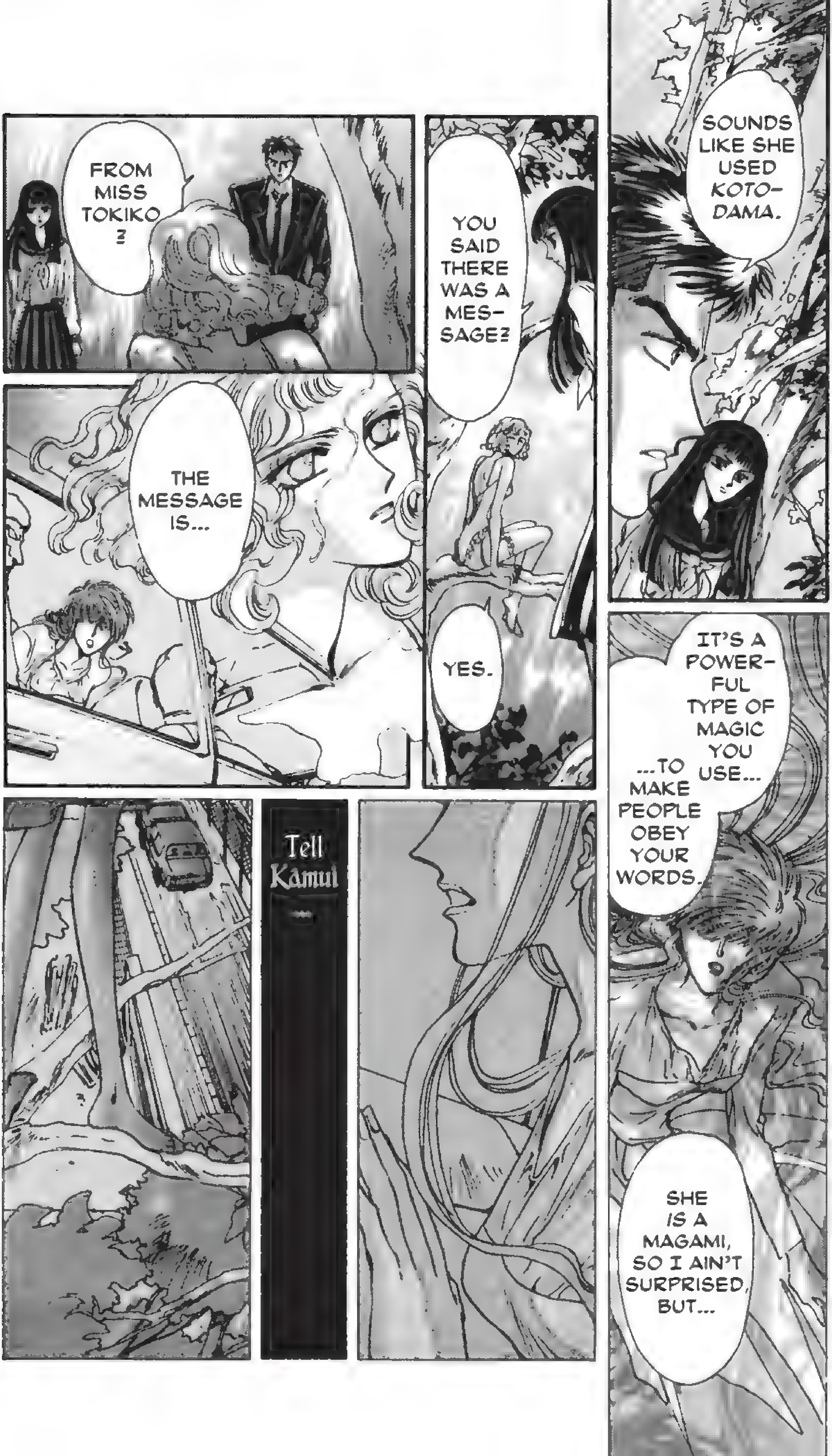

ALTHOUGH I WAS THE ONE WHO BURNED THE HOUSE DOWN...
SHIIN
SHE ASKED ME TO DO IT.
"SHE" BEING...?
THE WOMAN THEY KID-NAPPED.
HER NAME IS "TOKIKO"?
Come back again.
I'll tell you about your mother...
...and about the Magami family.

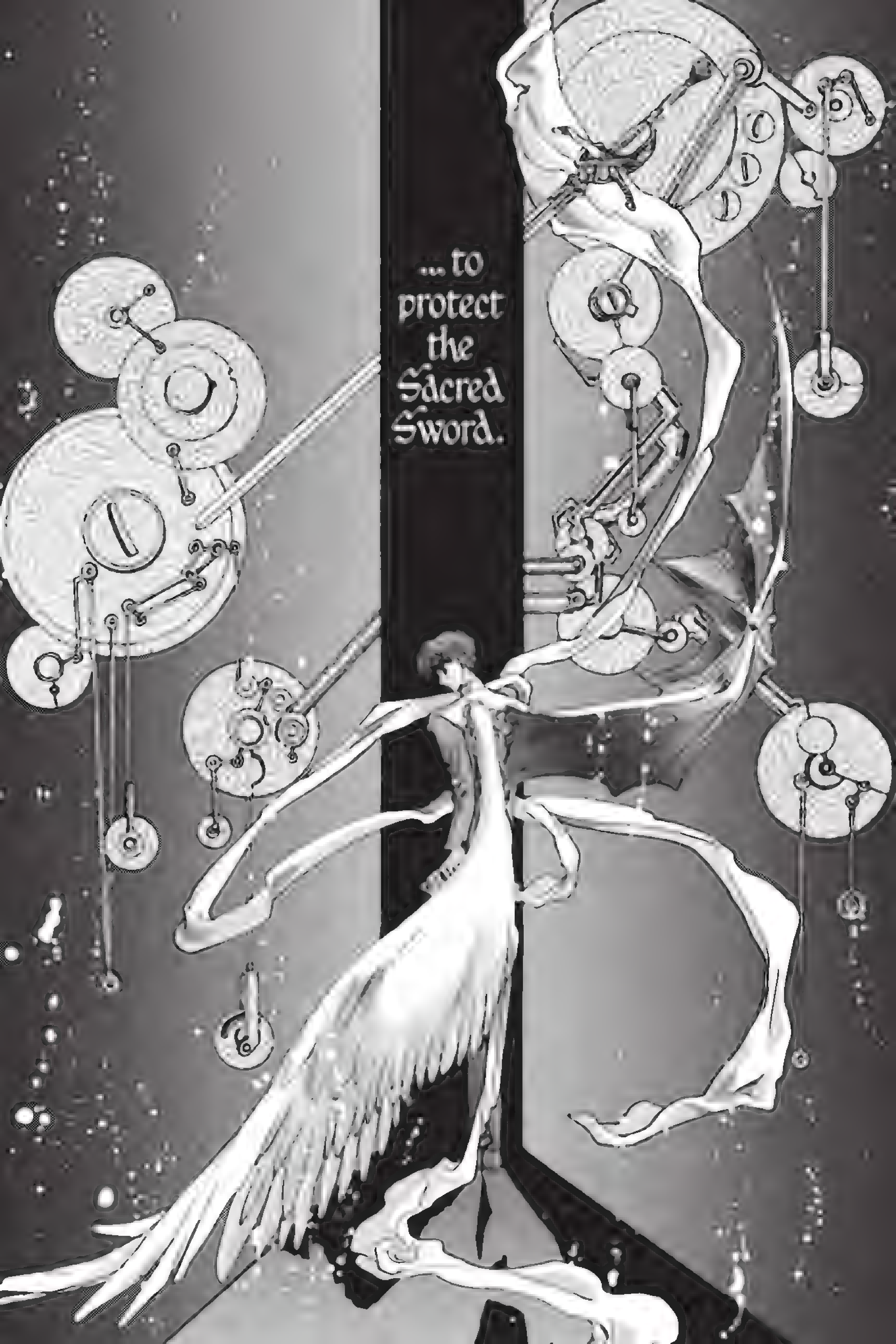

SHE ASKED YOU TO BURN DOWN HER HOUSE ?!
YES.
I'VE ...
...COME BACK OFTEN TO LOOK AT THIS PLACE.
EVEN THOUGH I DESTROYED THE BUILDING AND THERE'S NOTHING LEFT.
THIS IS...
...WHERE THE KAMUI LIVED.
THEN ...
YOU ARE...

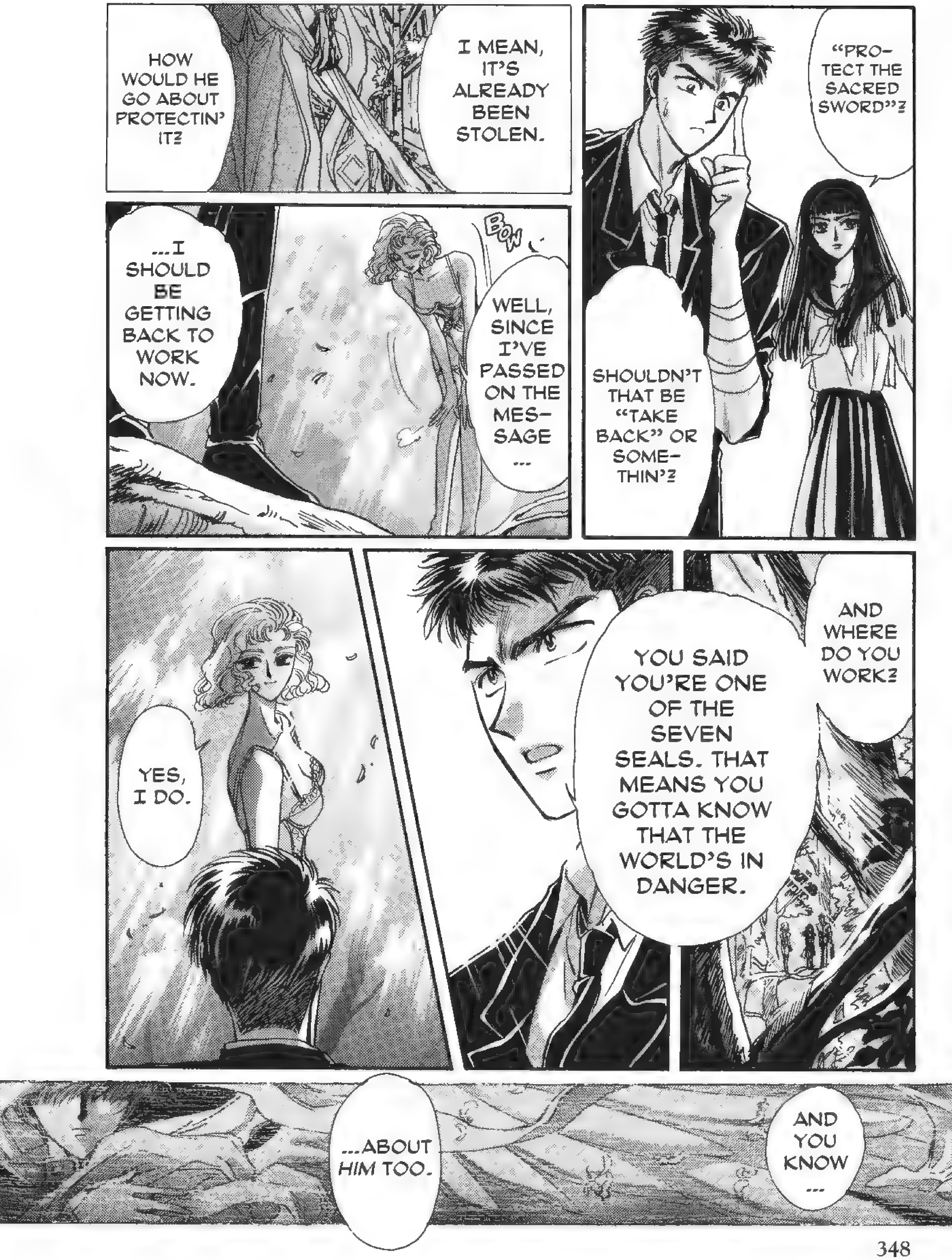

KAREN KASUMI.
ONE OF THE SEVEN SEALS.

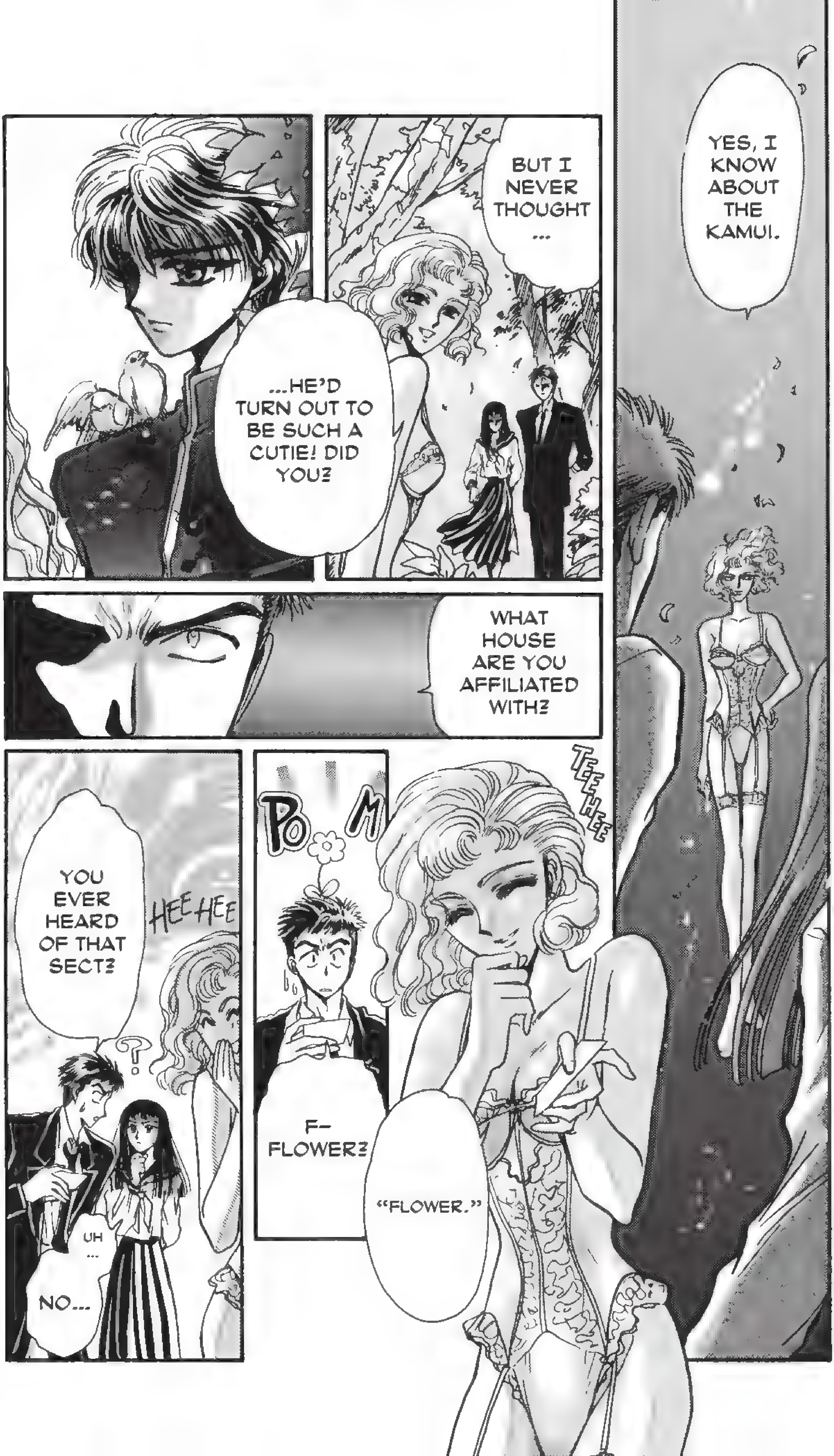

I WAS JUST SITTING HERE...
TMP...
...LOOKING AT KAMUI'S HOUSE.
WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN, SOME MEN IN BLACK SUITS DROVE UP...
...AND THEY GRABBED HER AND TOOK HER AWAY.
FOR THE BRIEFEST INSTANT...
...OUR EYES MET.

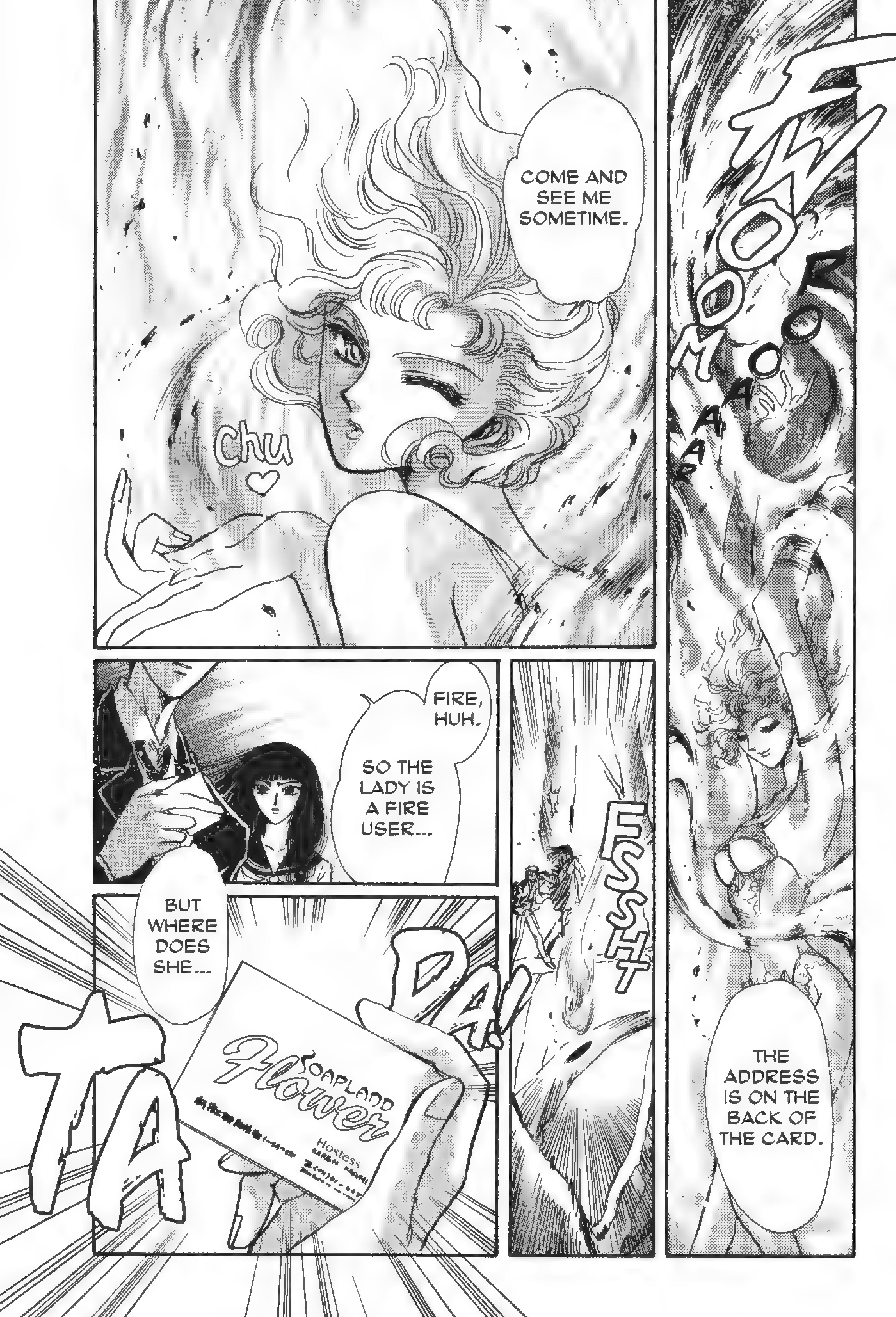

THAT'S WHEN …
…I HEARD HER.
BURN IT.
BURN IT.
BURN THIS HOUSE.

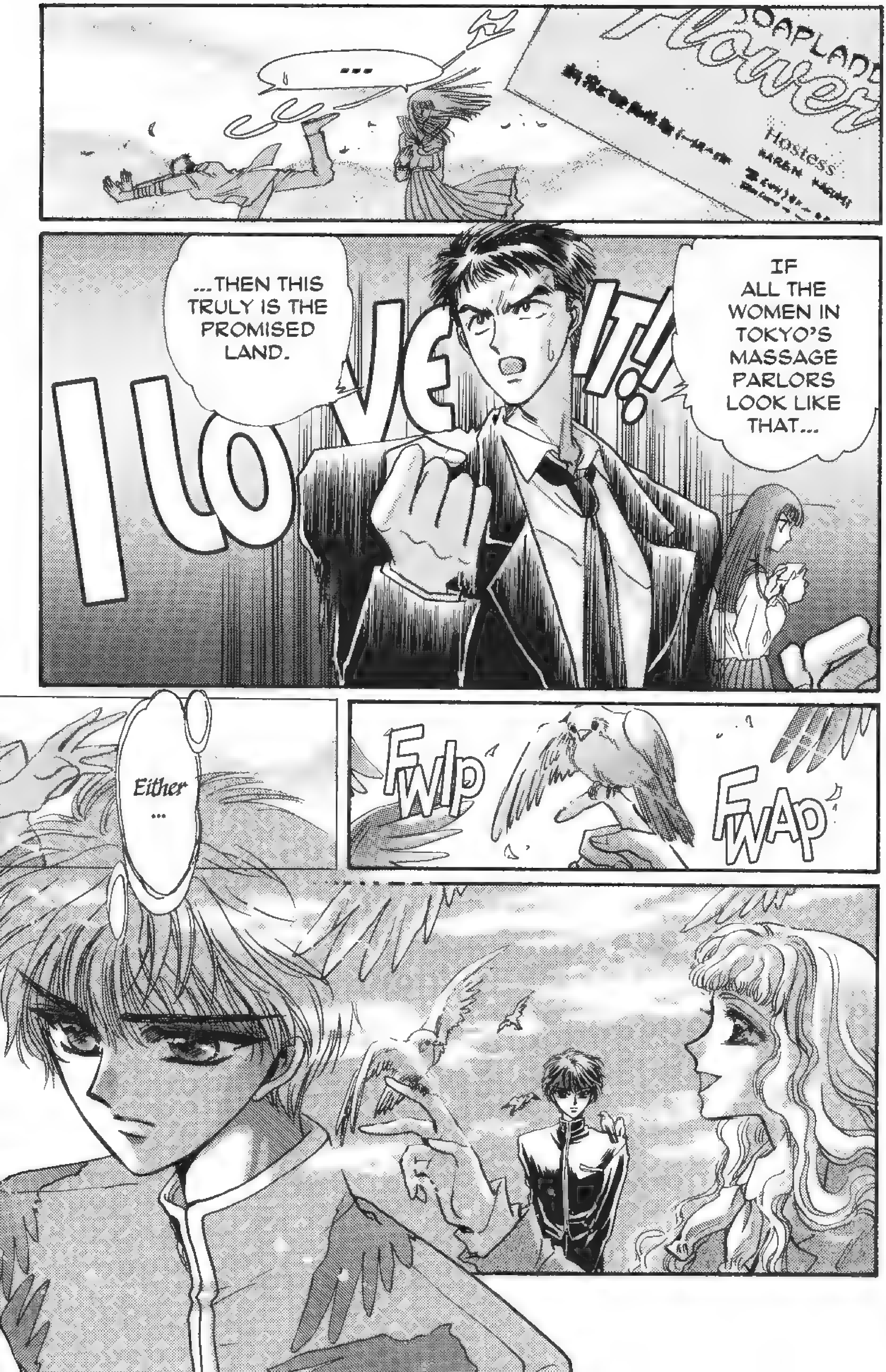

YOU SAID THERE WAS A MESSAGE?
YES.
FROM MISS TOKIKO?
THE MESSAGE IS...
Tell Kamui
SOUNDS LIKE SHE USED KOTODAMA.
IT'S A POWERFUL TYPE OF MAGIC YOU USE...
...TO MAKE PEOPLE OBEY YOUR WORDS.
SHE IS A MAGAMI, SO I AIN'T SURPRISED, BUT...

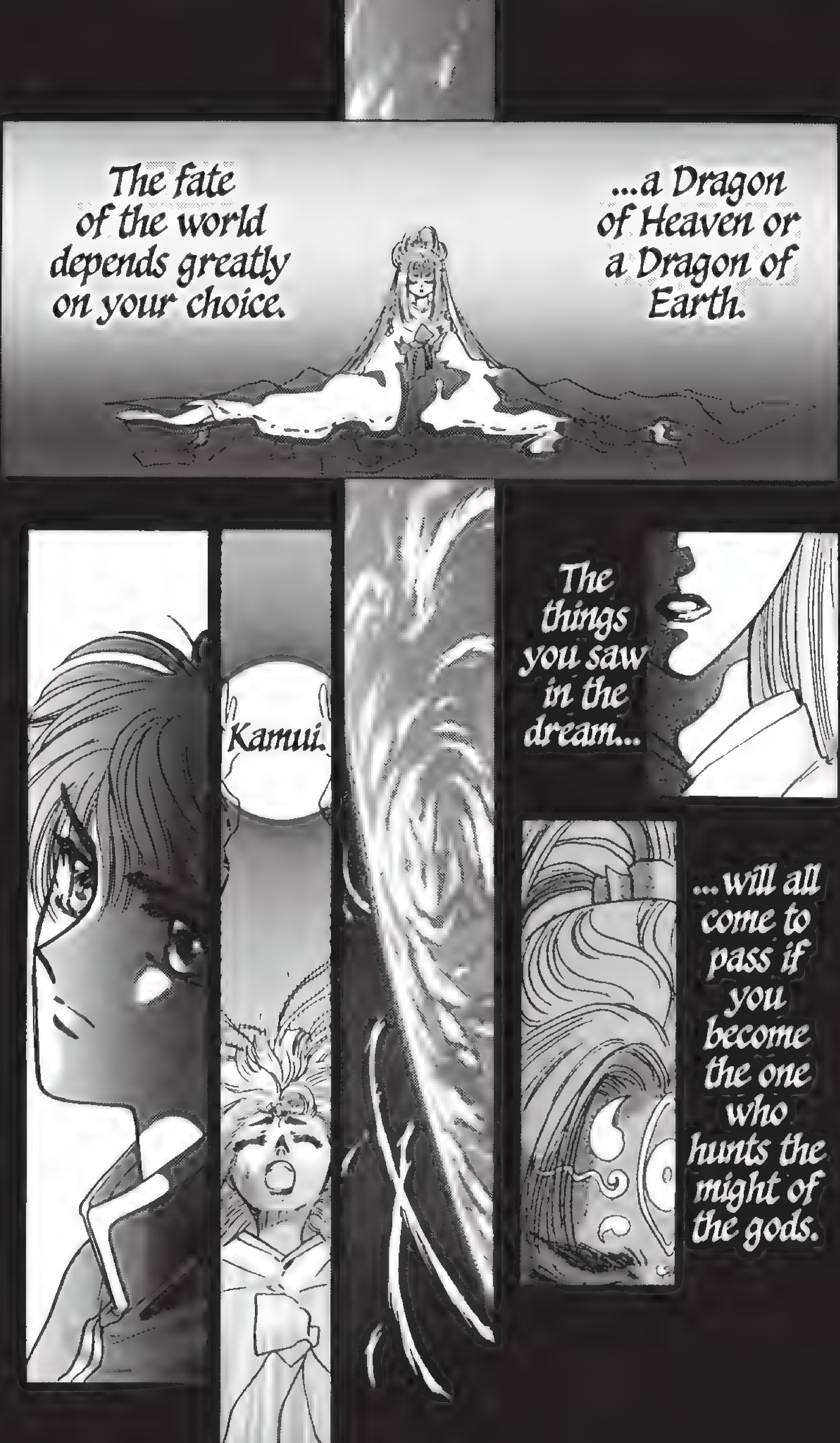

... to protect the Sacred Sword.

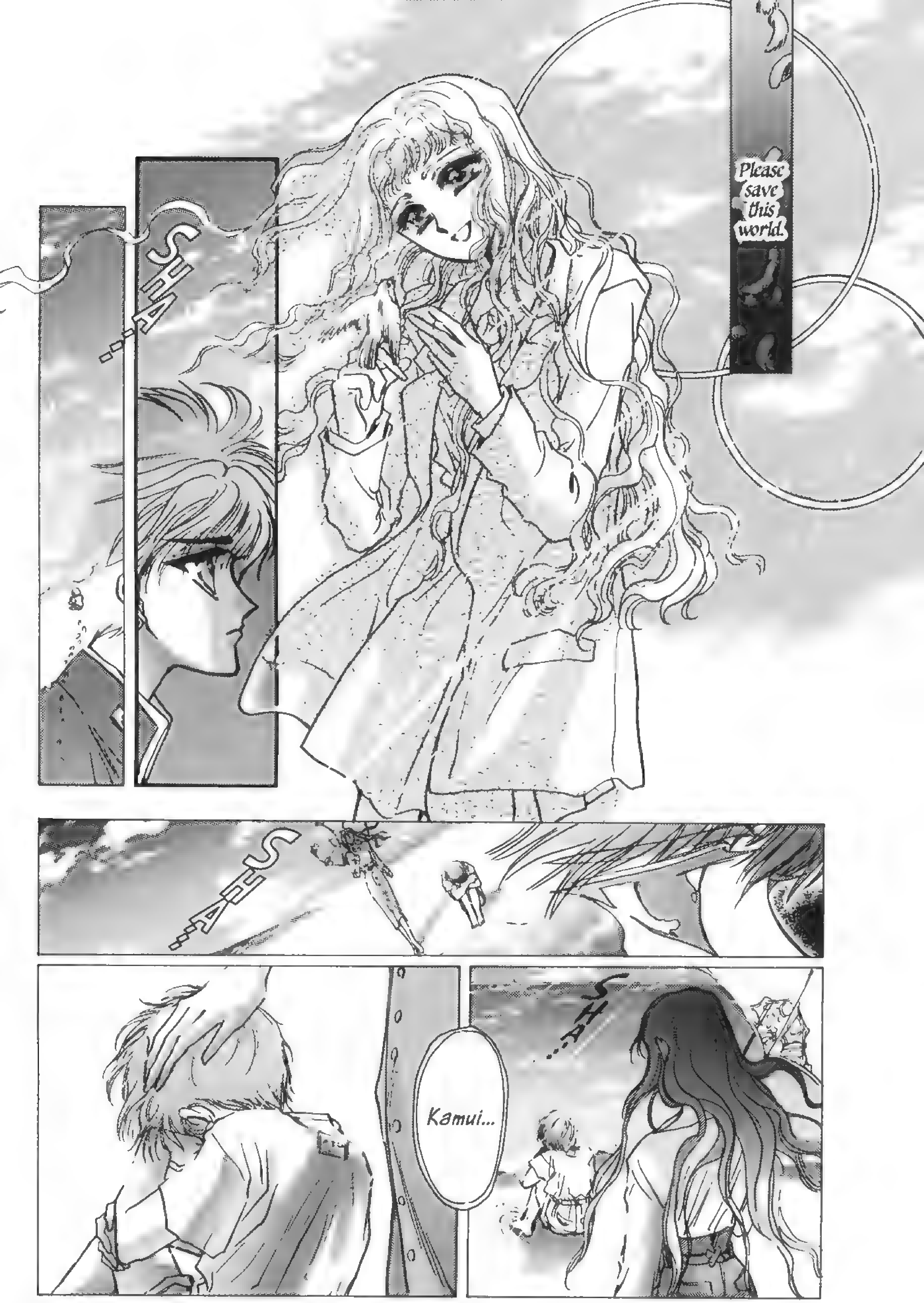

"PROTECT THE SACRED SWORD"?
SHOULDN'T THAT BE "TAKE BACK" OR SOMETHIN'?
I MEAN, IT'S ALREADY BEEN STOLEN.
HOW WOULD HE GO ABOUT PROTECTIN' IT?
BOW
WELL, SINCE I'VE PASSED ON THE MESSAGE...
...I SHOULD BE GETTING BACK TO WORK NOW.
AND WHERE DO YOU WORK?
YOU SAID YOU'RE ONE OF THE SEVEN SEALS. THAT MEANS YOU GOTTA KNOW THAT THE WORLD'S IN DANGER.
YES, I DO.
AND YOU KNOW...
...ABOUT *HIM* TOO.

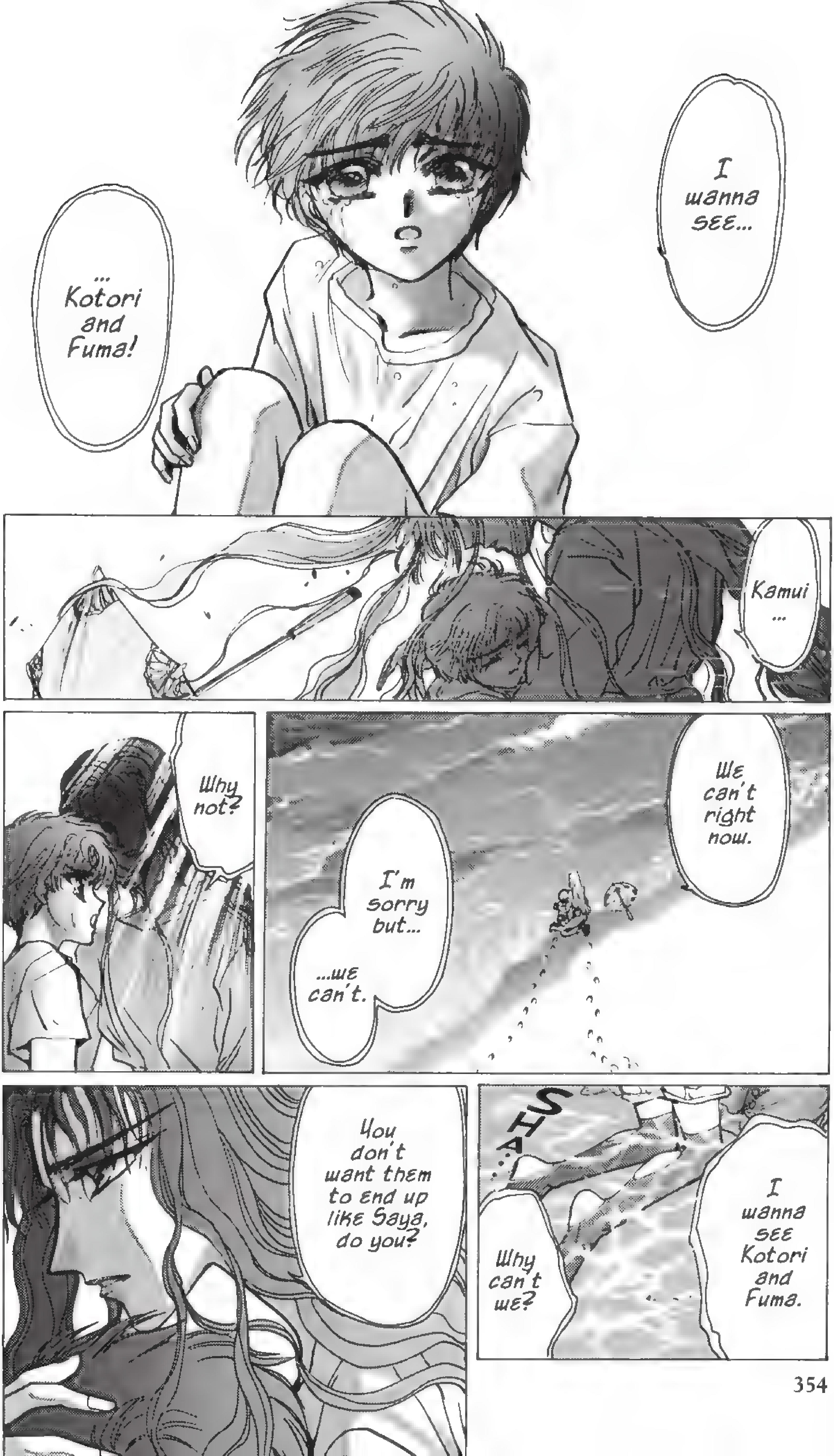

YES, I KNOW ABOUT THE KAMUI.
BUT I NEVER THOUGHT ...
...HE'D TURN OUT TO BE SUCH A CUTIE! DID YOU?
WHAT HOUSE ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH?
TEE HEE
"FLOWER."
POM
F- FLOWER?
HEE HEE
YOU EVER HEARD OF THAT SECT?
UH ...
NO...

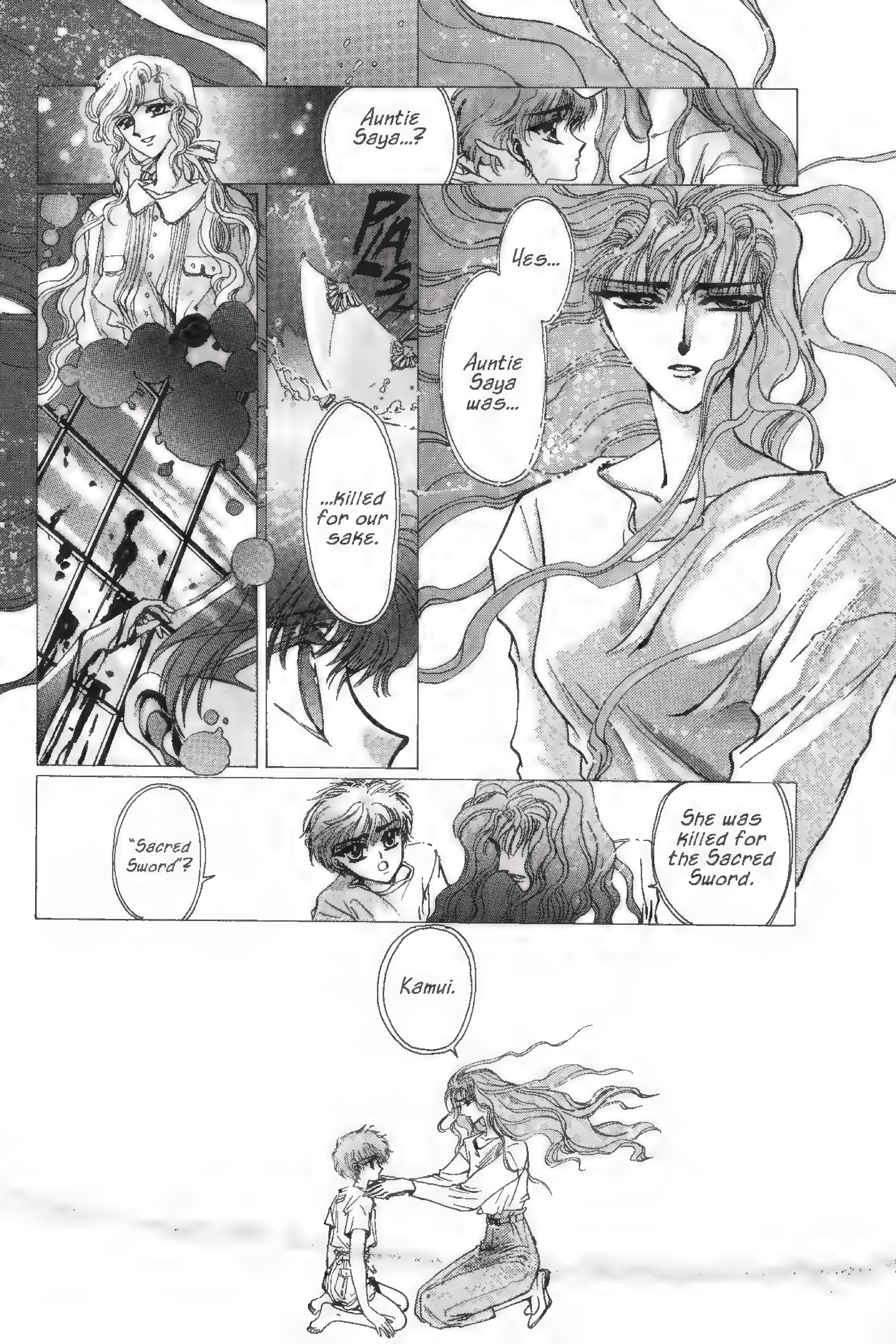

FWOOM
ROOAAAR
THE ADDRESS IS ON THE BACK OF THE CARD.
COME AND SEE ME SOMETIME.
Chu ♡
FSSHT
FIRE, HUH.
SO THE LADY IS A FIRE USER...
BUT WHERE DOES SHE...
TA
DA!
SOAPLAND
Flower
Hostess

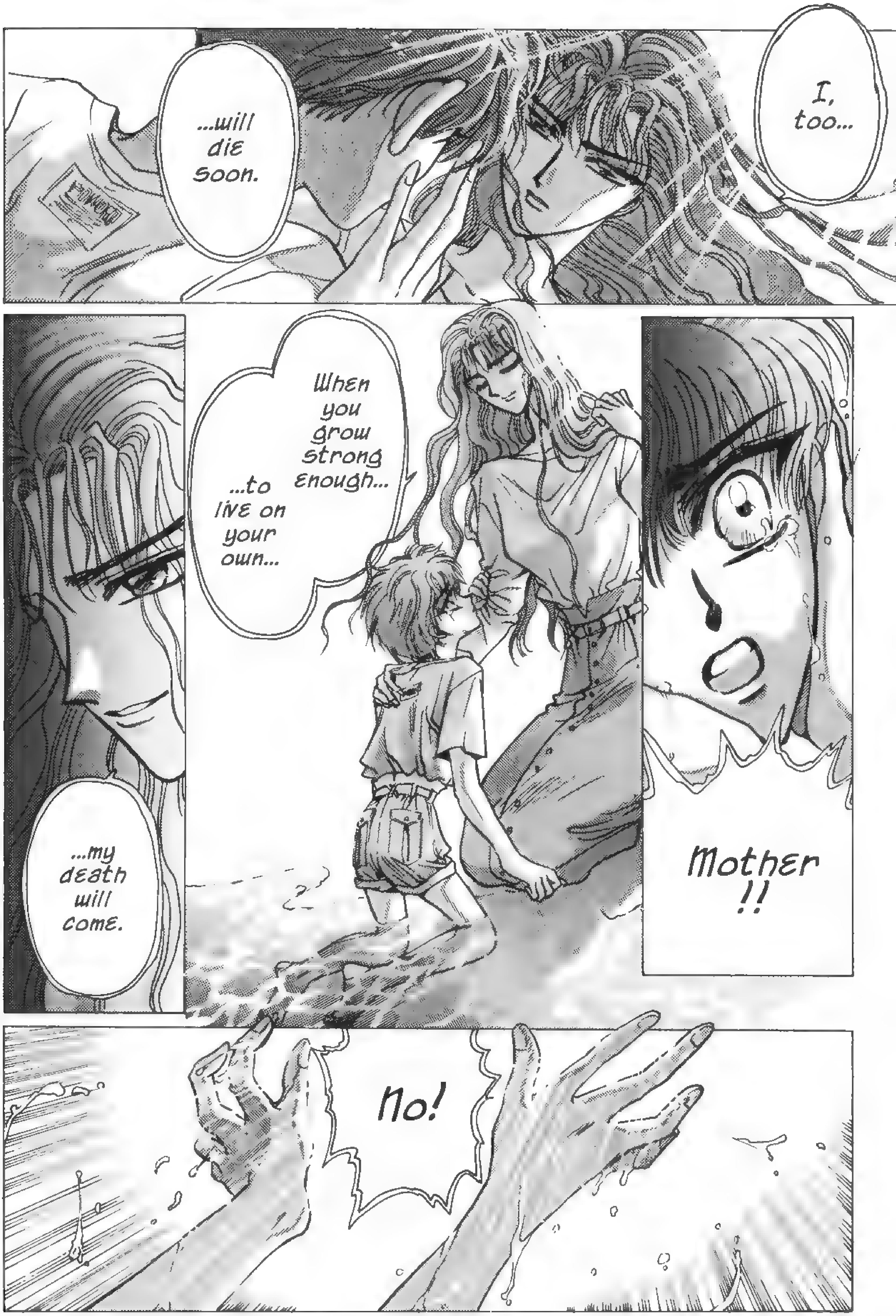

SOAPLAND
Flower
Hostess
KAREN
...
IF ALL THE WOMEN IN TOKYO'S MASSAGE PARLORS LOOK LIKE THAT...
...THEN THIS TRULY IS THE PROMISED LAND.
I LOVE IT!!
FWAP
FWIP
Either ...

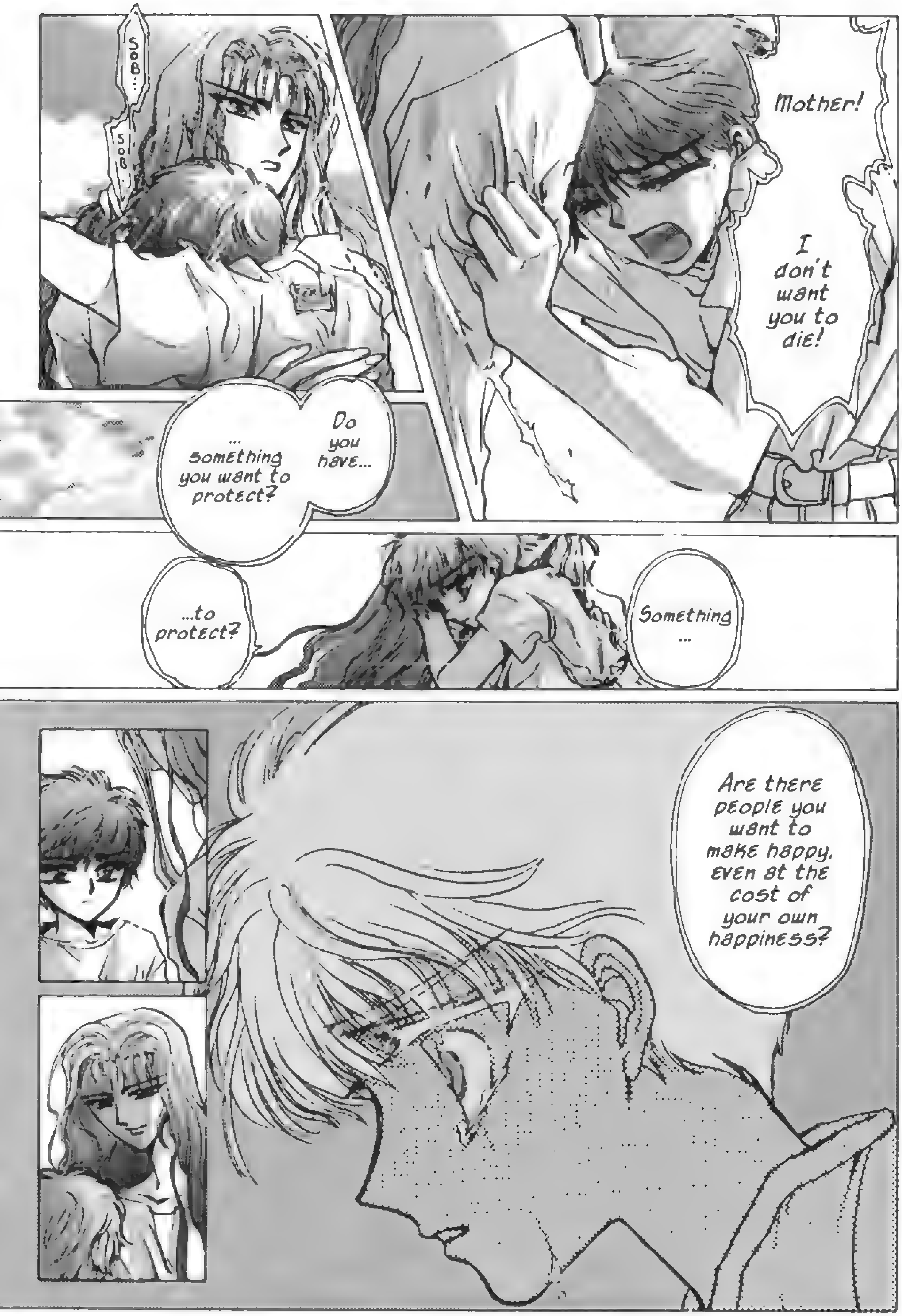

The fate of the world depends greatly on your choice.
...a Dragon of Heaven or a Dragon of Earth.
Kamui.
The things you saw in the dream...
...will all come to pass if you become the one who hunts the might of the gods.

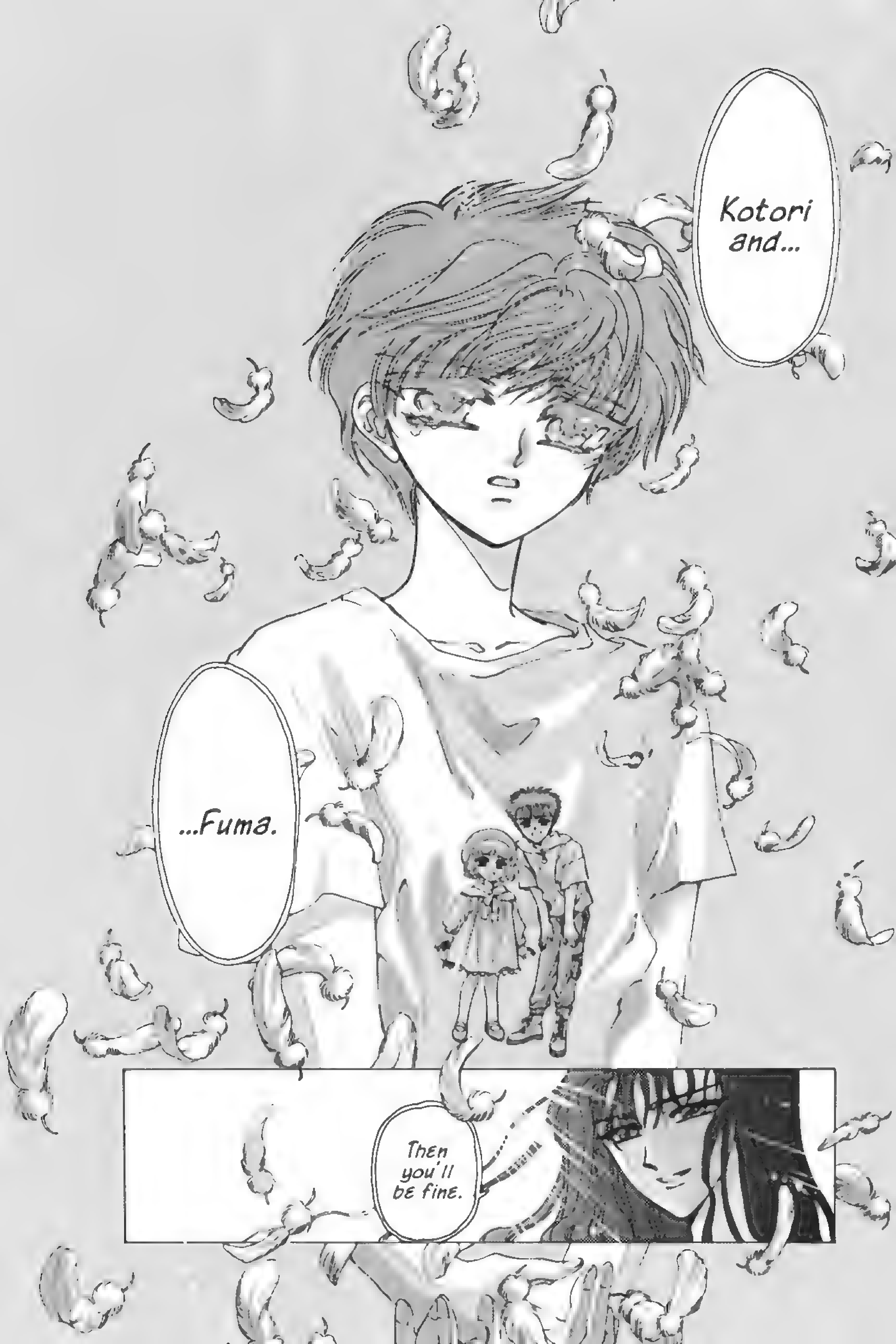

Please save this world.
SHA...
SHA...
SHA...
Kamui...

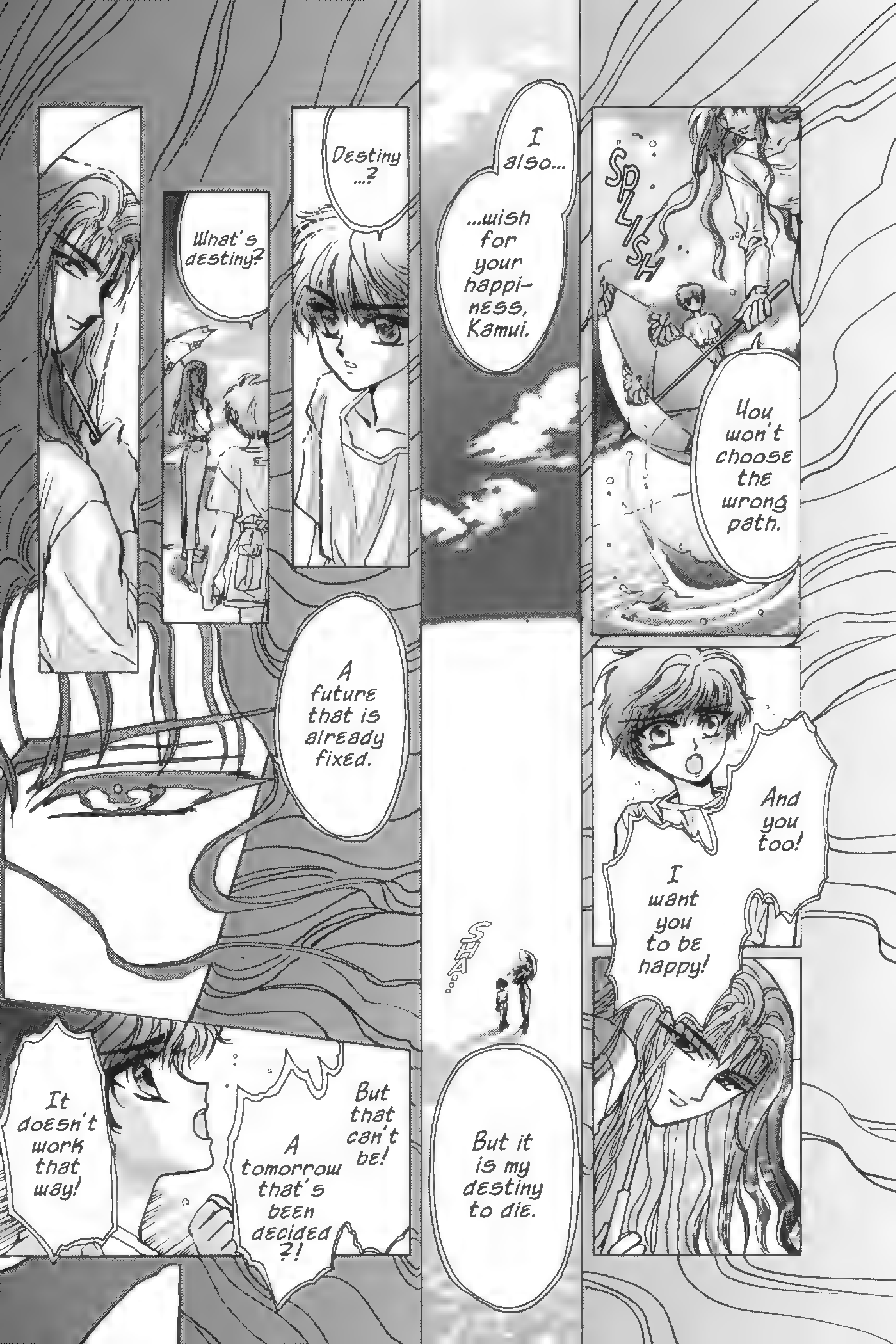

I wanna see...
...Kotori and Fuma!
Kamui...
We can't right now.
I'm sorry but... ...we can't.
Why not?
I wanna see Kotori and Fuma.
SHA...
Why can't we?
You don't want them to end up like Saya, do you?

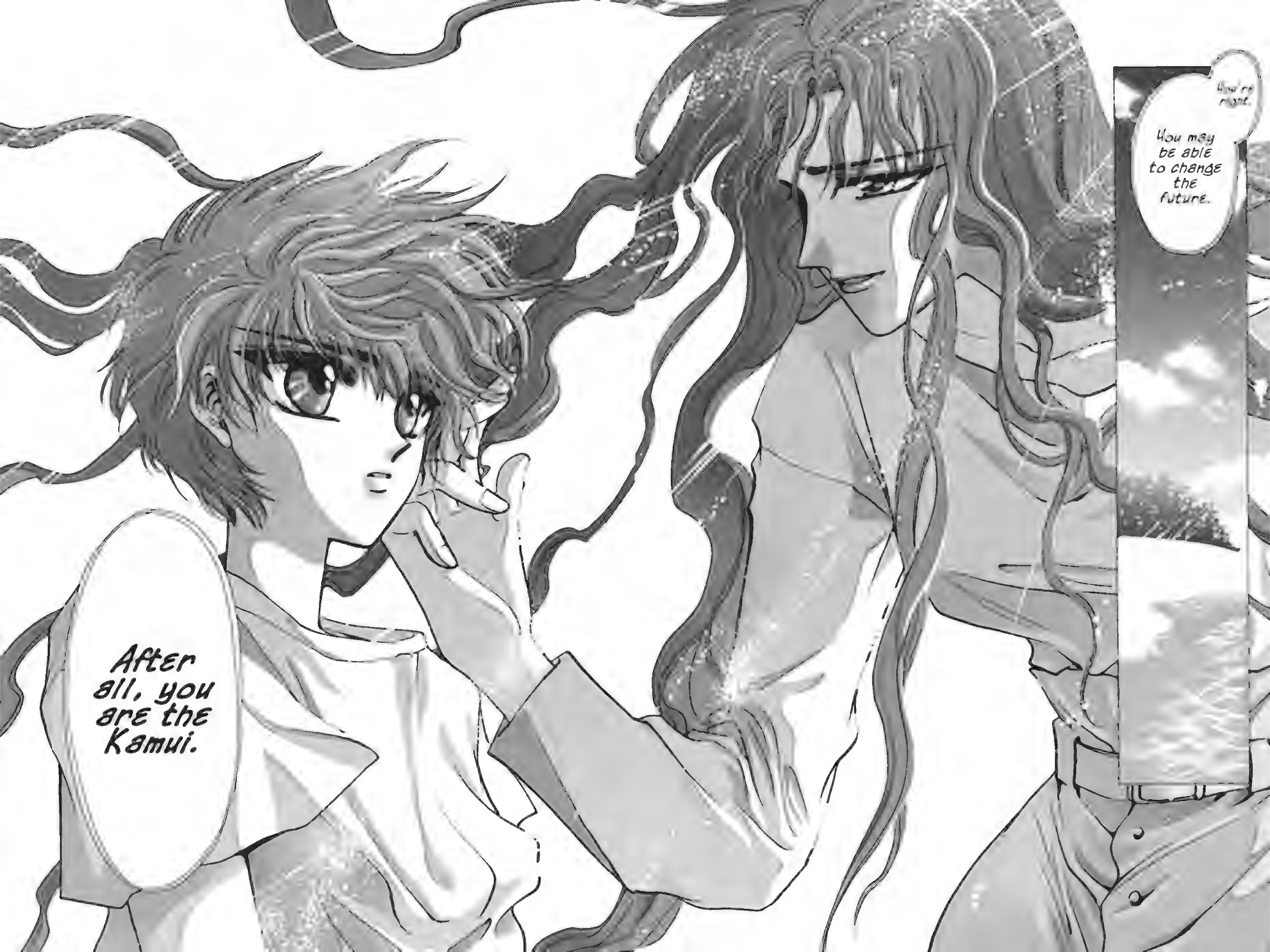

Auntie Saya...?
Yes...
Auntie Saya was...
PLASH
...killed for our sake.
She was killed for the Sacred Sword.
"Sacred Sword"?
Kamui.

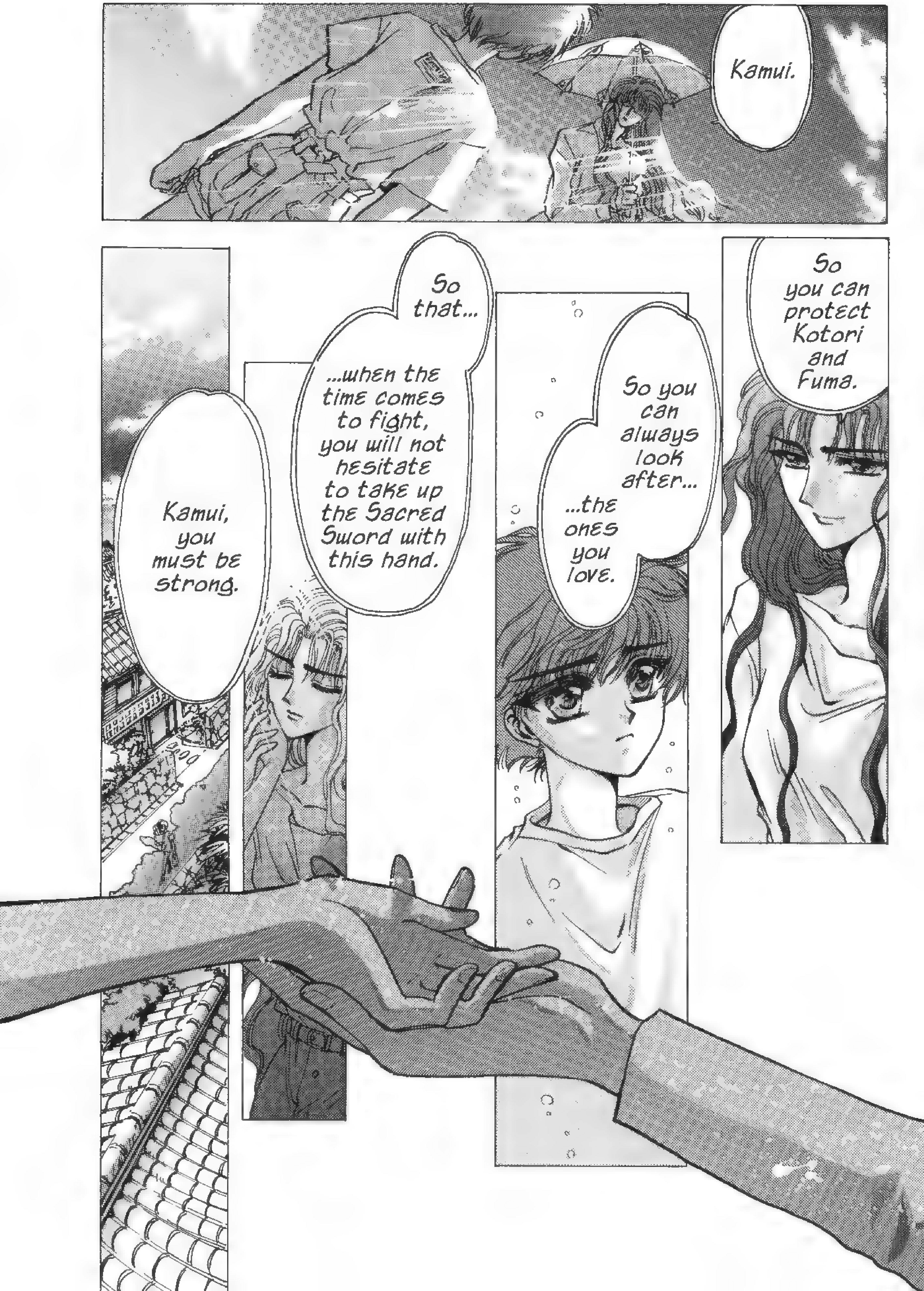

I, too...
...will die soon.
Mother !!
When you grow strong enough...
...to live on your own...
...my death will come.
No!

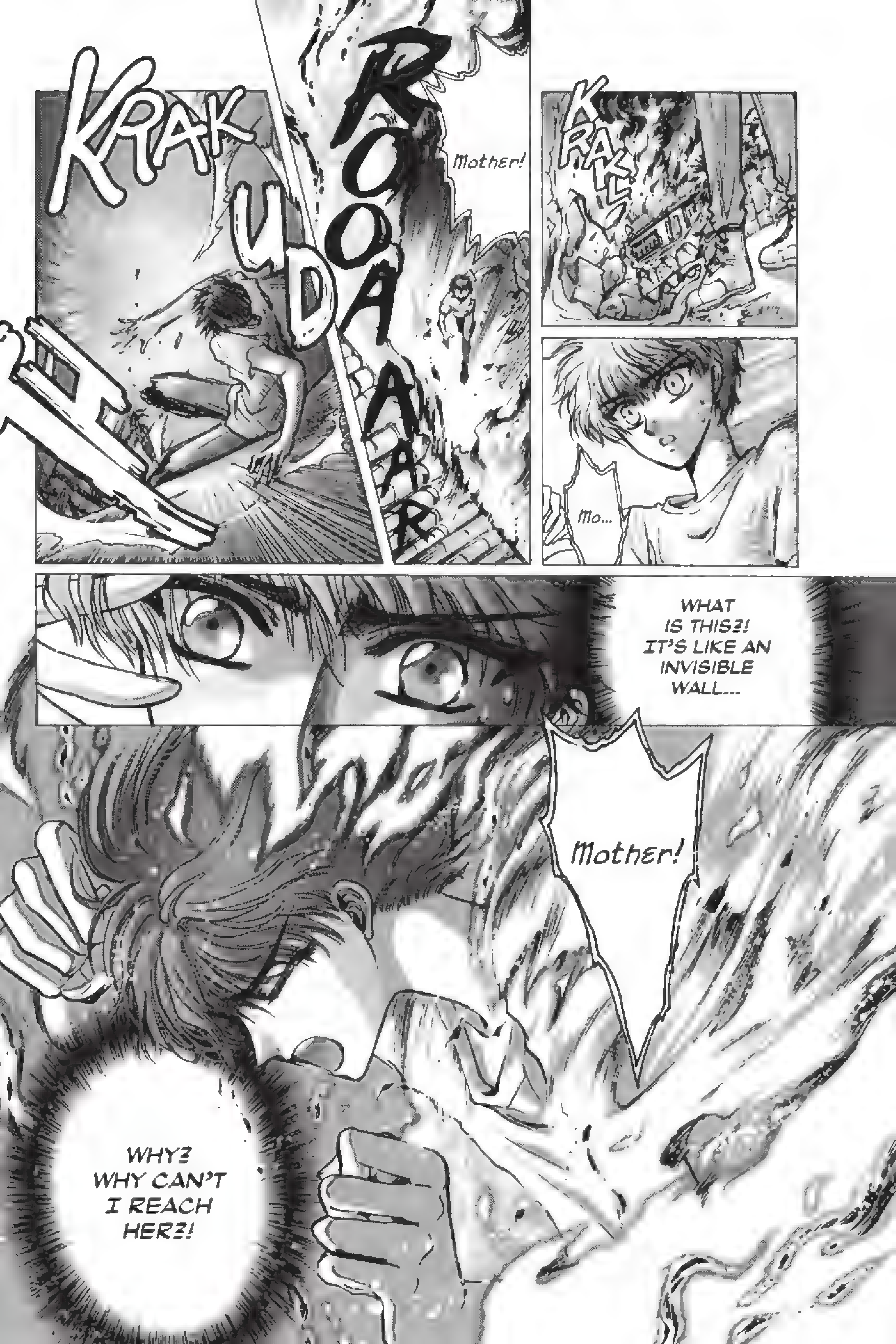

Mother!
I don't want you to die!
SOB... SOB...
Do you have...
...something you want to protect?
Something...
...to protect?
Are there people you want to make happy, even at the cost of your own happiness?

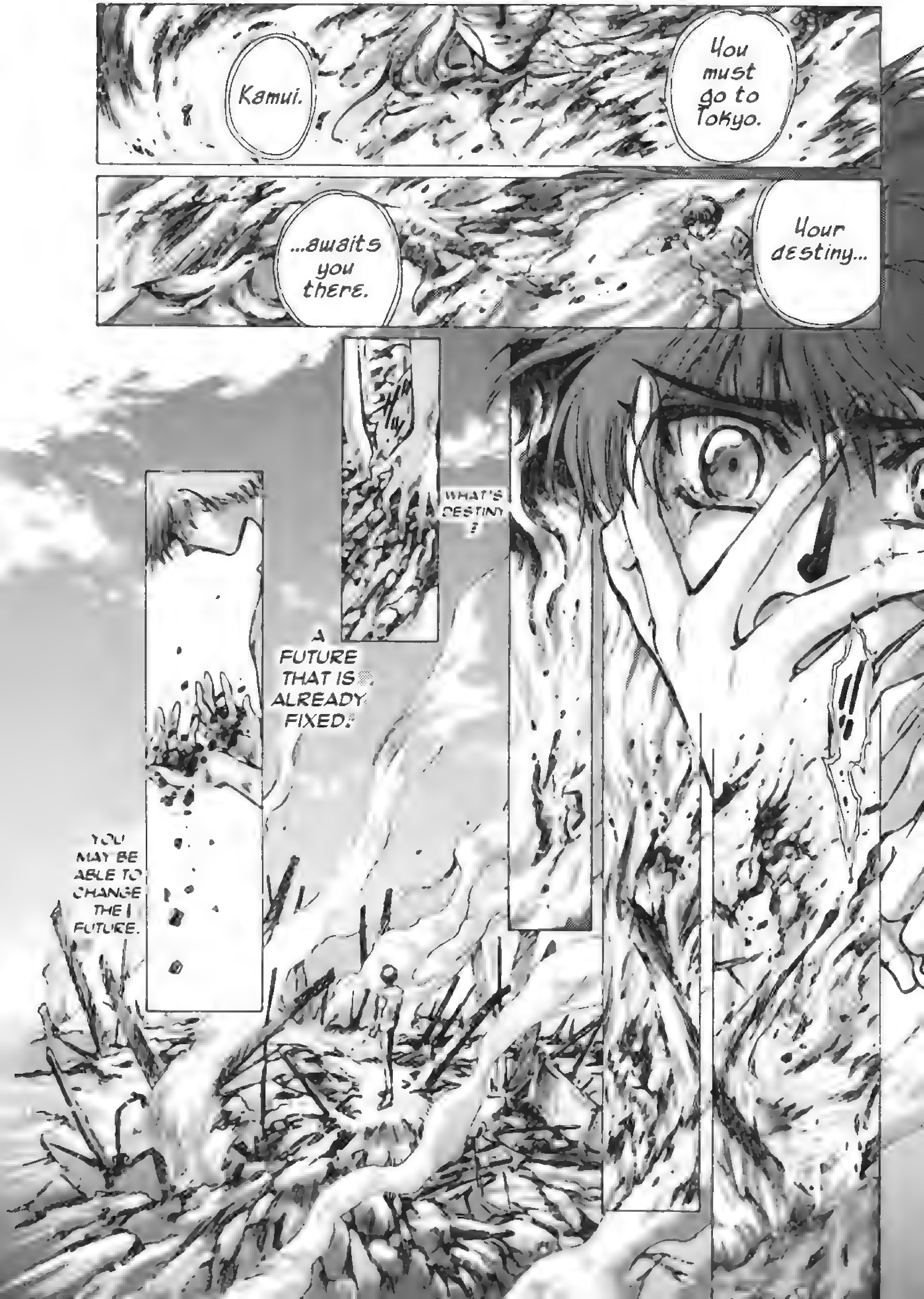

Kotori and...
...Fuma.
Then you'll be fine.

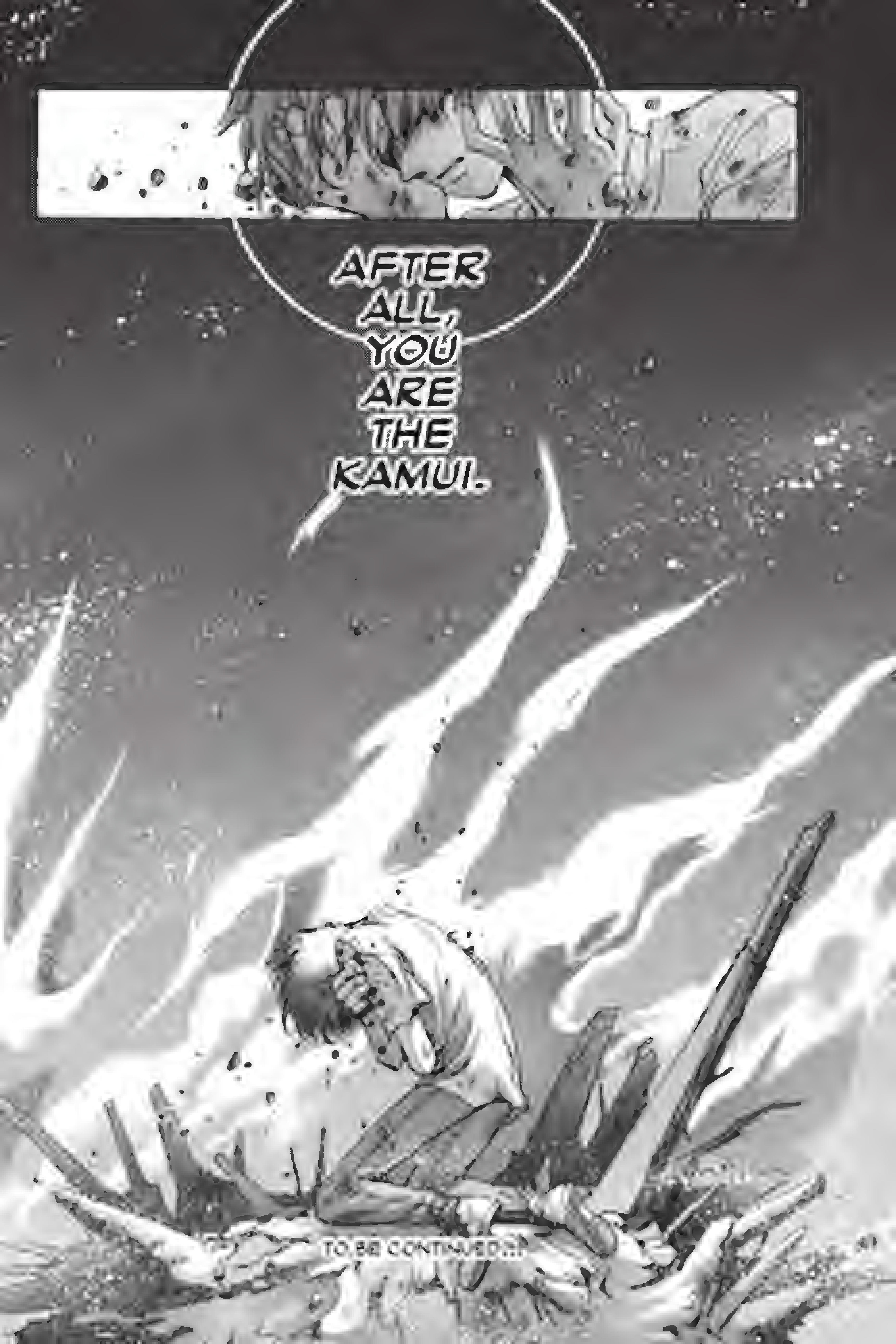

What's destiny?
Destiny ...?
A future that is already fixed.
It doesn't work that way!
But that can't be!
A tomorrow that's been decided?!
I also...
...wish for your happiness, Kamui.
SPLISH
You won't choose the wrong path.
And you too!
I want you to be happy!
SHA...
But it is my destiny to die.

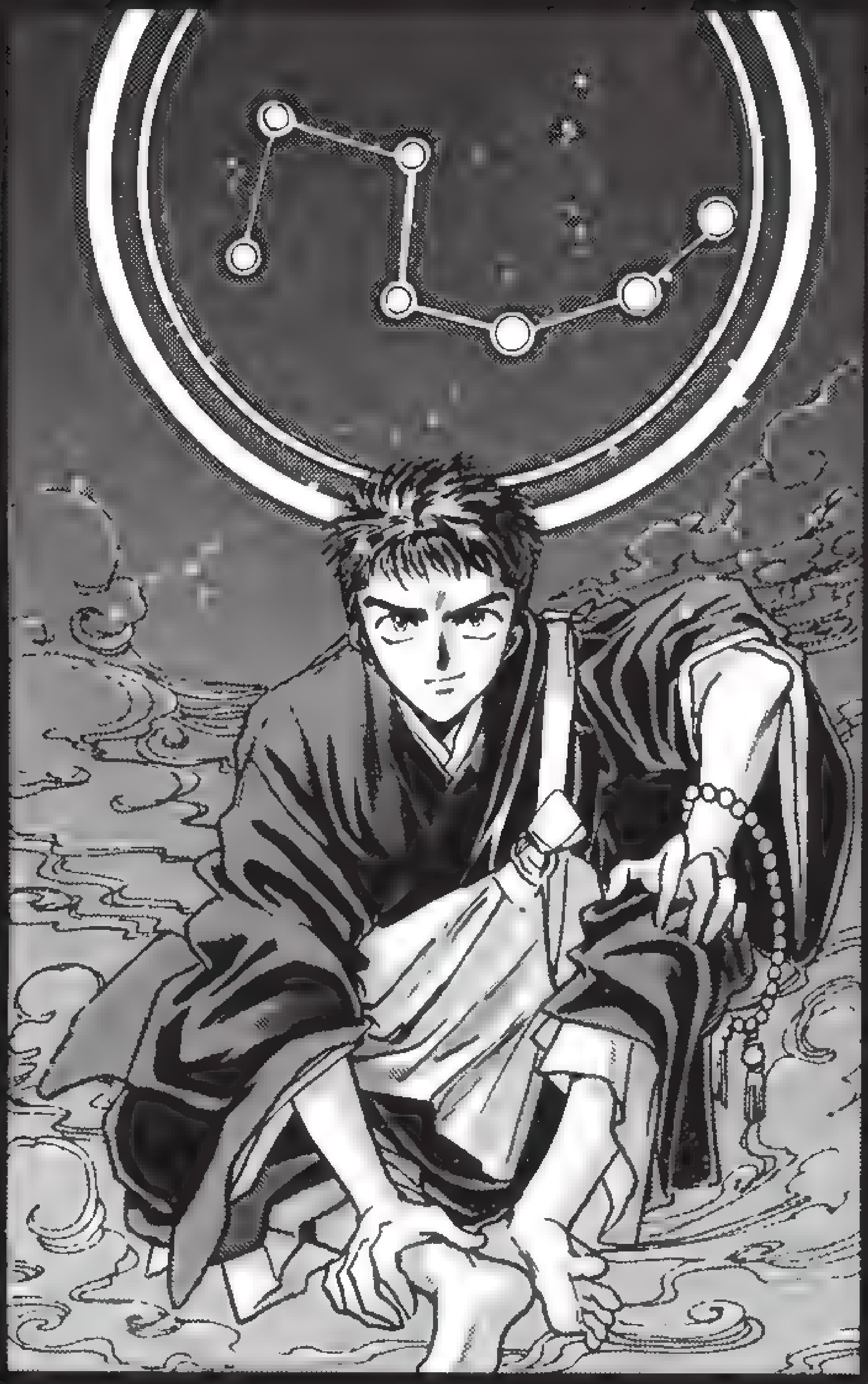

You're right.
You may be able to change the future.
After all, you are the Kamui.


Kamui.
So you can protect Kotori and Fuma.
So you can always look after...
...the ones you love.
So that...
...when the time comes to fight, you will not hesitate to take up the Sacred Sword with this hand.
Kamui, you must be strong.


KRAKLL
Mo...
KRAK
UDA
ROOOAAAR
Mother!
WHAT IS THIS?! IT'S LIKE AN INVISIBLE WALL...
Mother!
WHY? WHY CAN'T I REACH HER?!

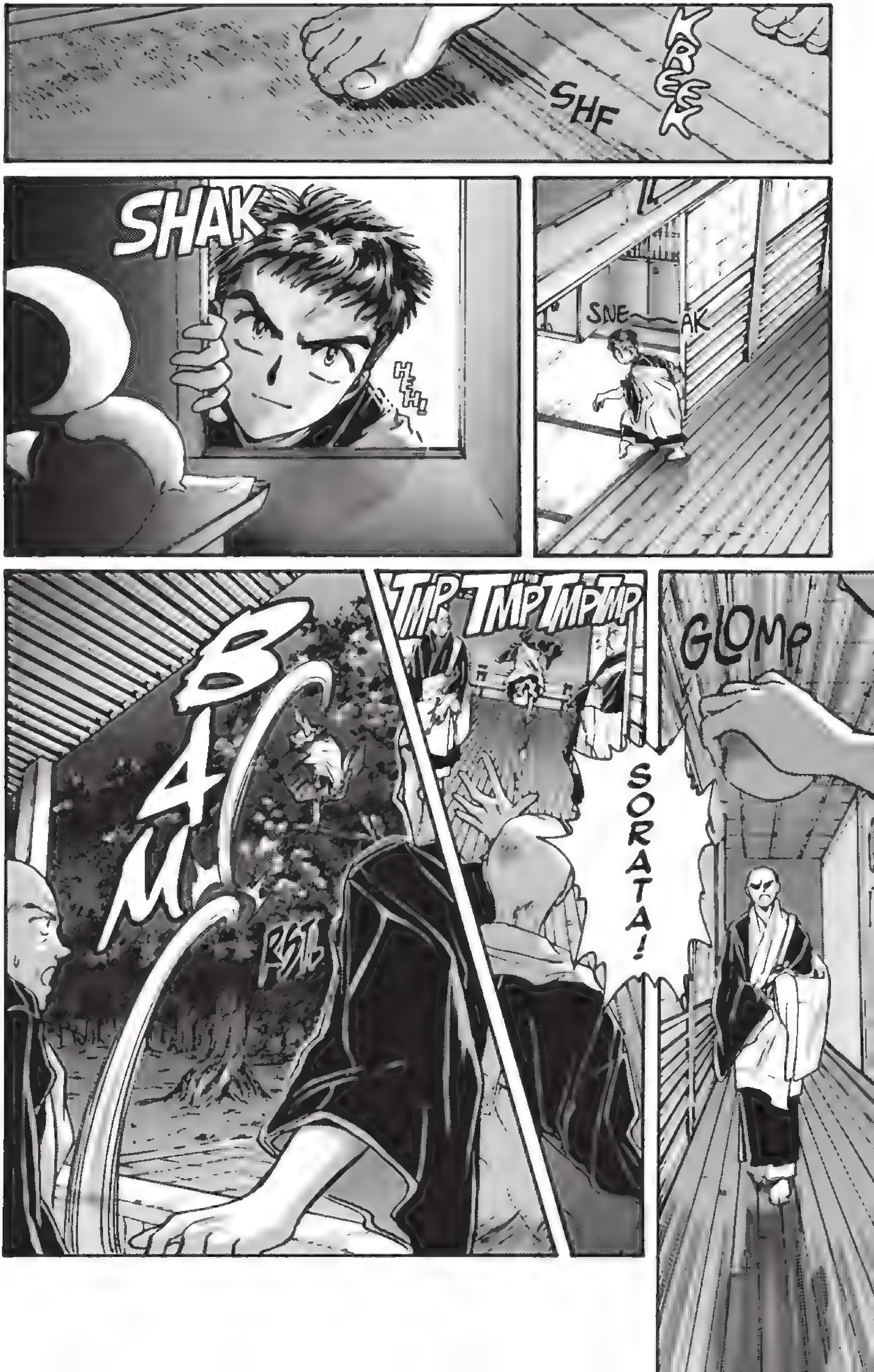

You must go to Tokyo.
Kamui.
Your destiny...
...awaits you there.
WHAT'S DESTINY?
A FUTURE THAT IS ALREADY FIXED.
YOU MAY BE ABLE TO CHANGE THE FUTURE.

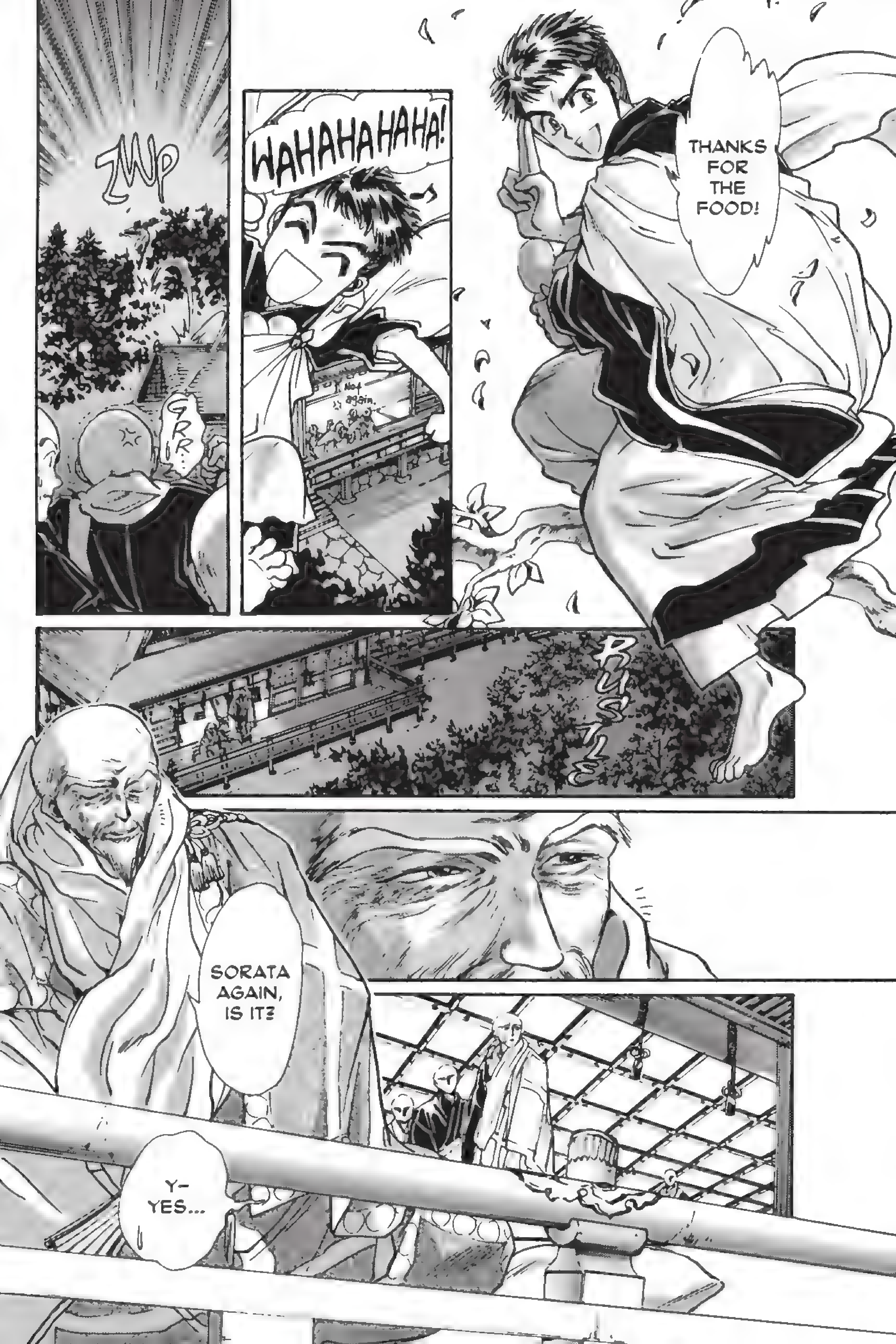

AFTER ALL, YOU ARE THE KAMUI.
TO BE CONTINUED...

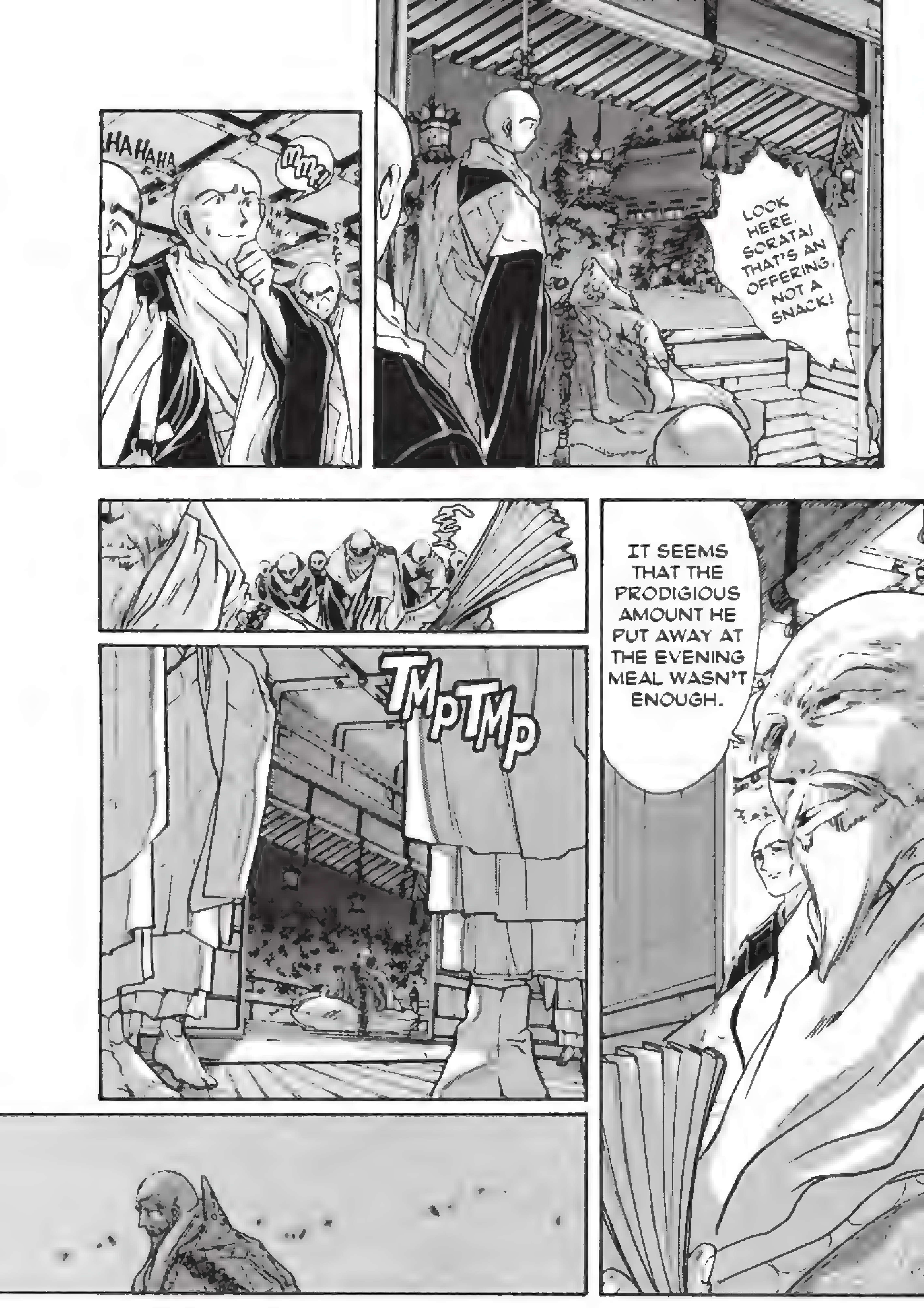


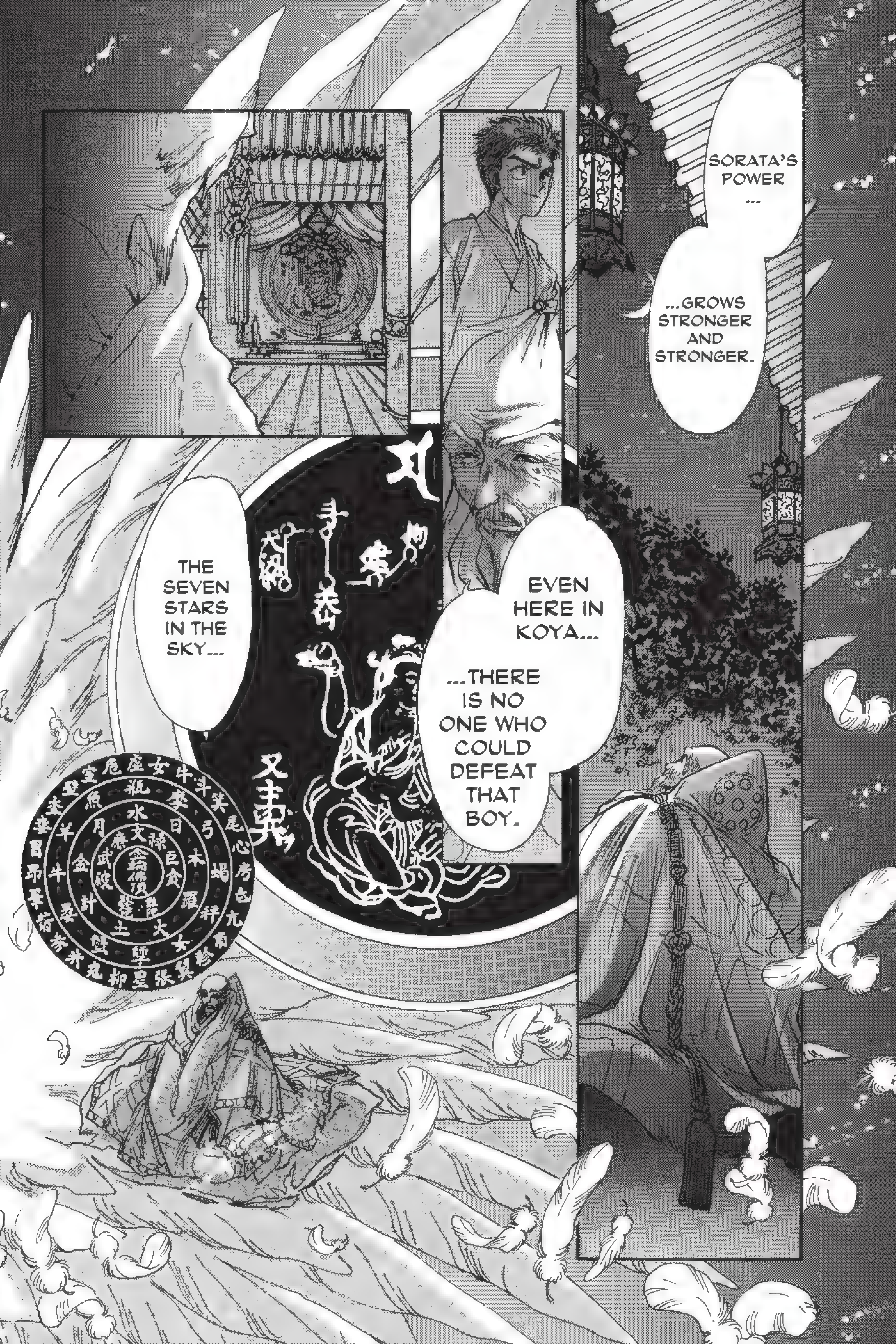
X

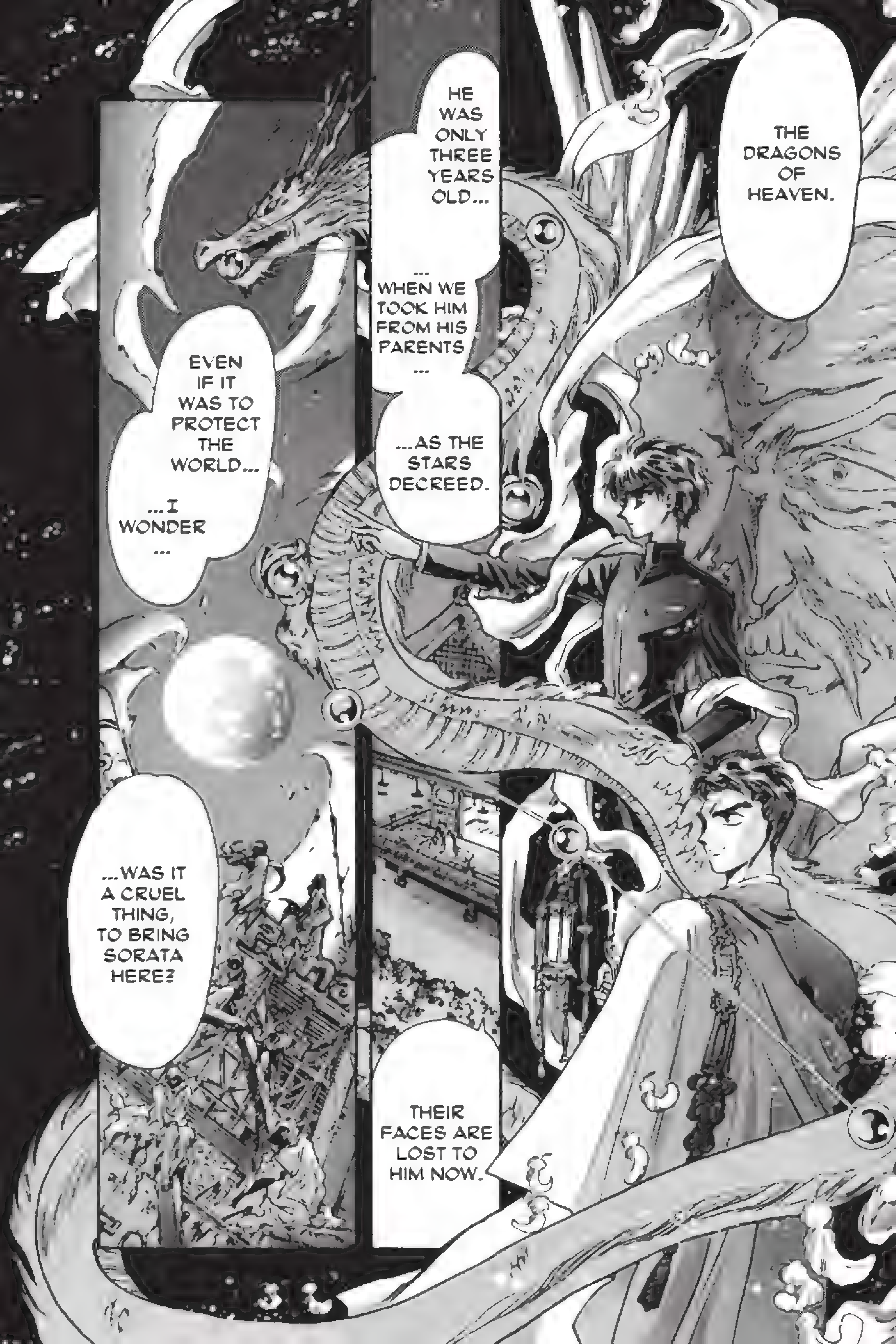
SORATA ARISUGAWA

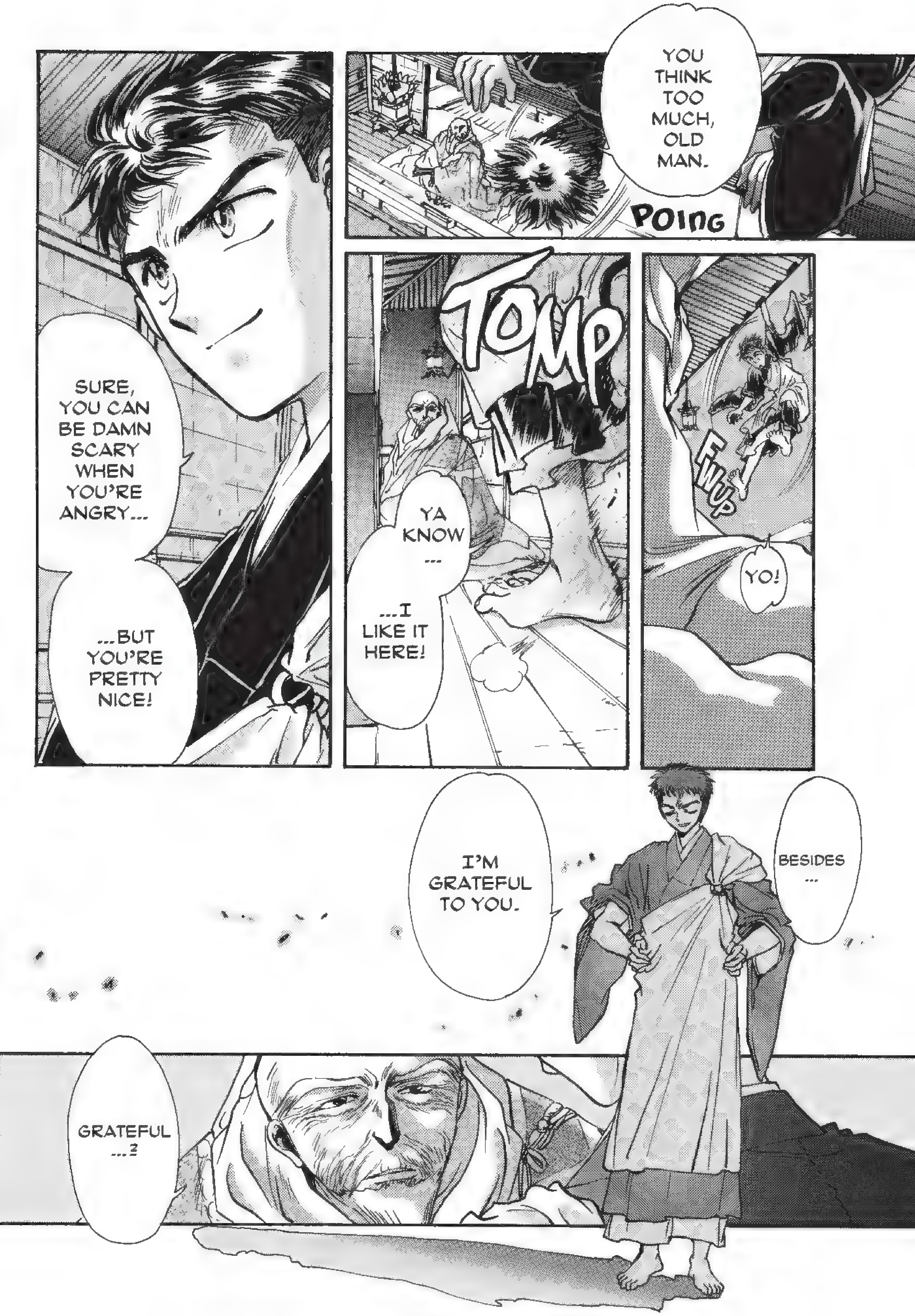

KREEK
SHF
SNE—AK
SHAK
HEH!
GLOMP
SORATA!
TMP TMP TMP TMP
BAM
RSTL

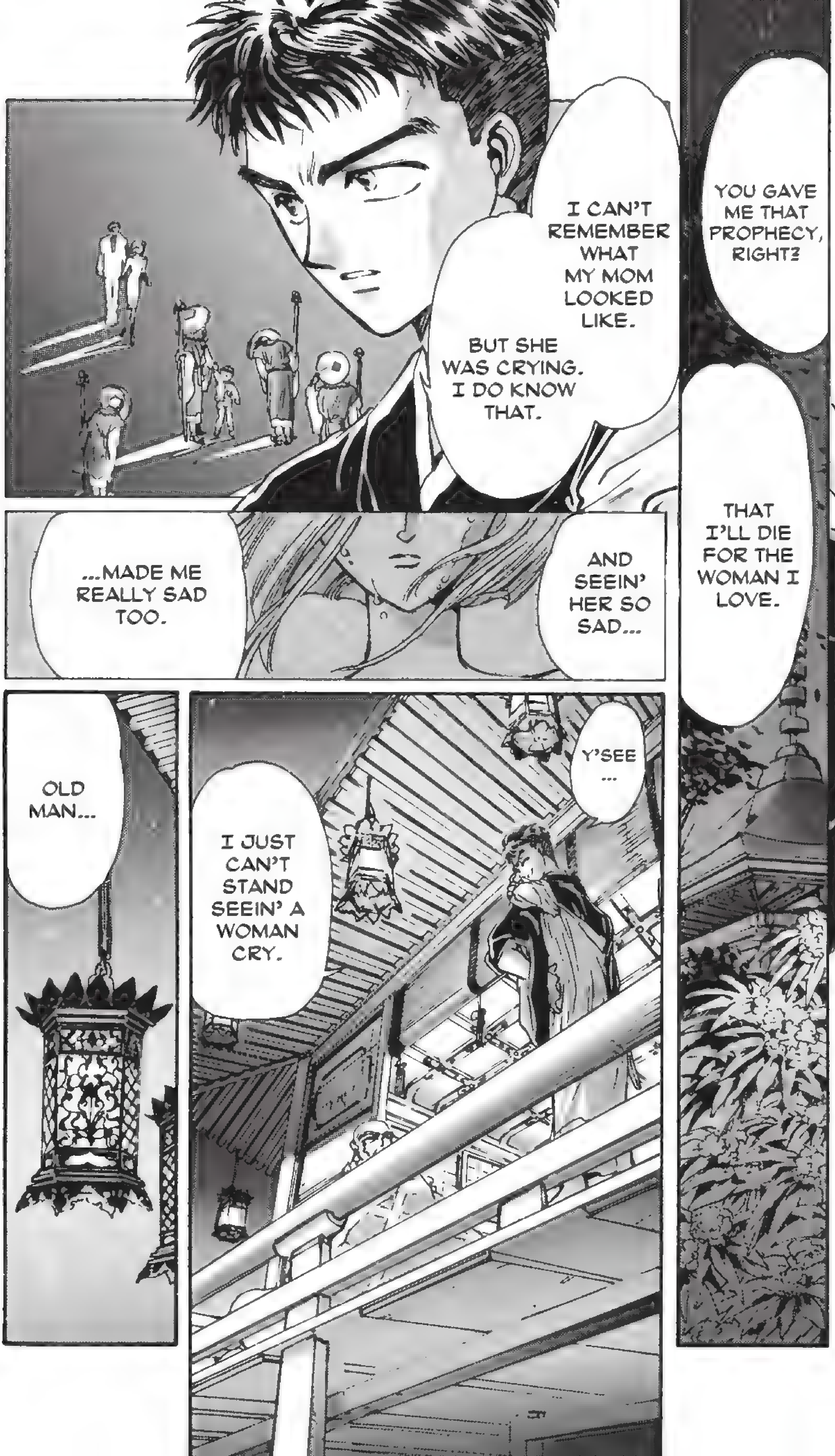

THANKS FOR THE FOOD!
WAHAHAHAHA!
Not again.
ZWP
GRRR...
RUSTLE
SORATA AGAIN, IS IT?
Y-YES...

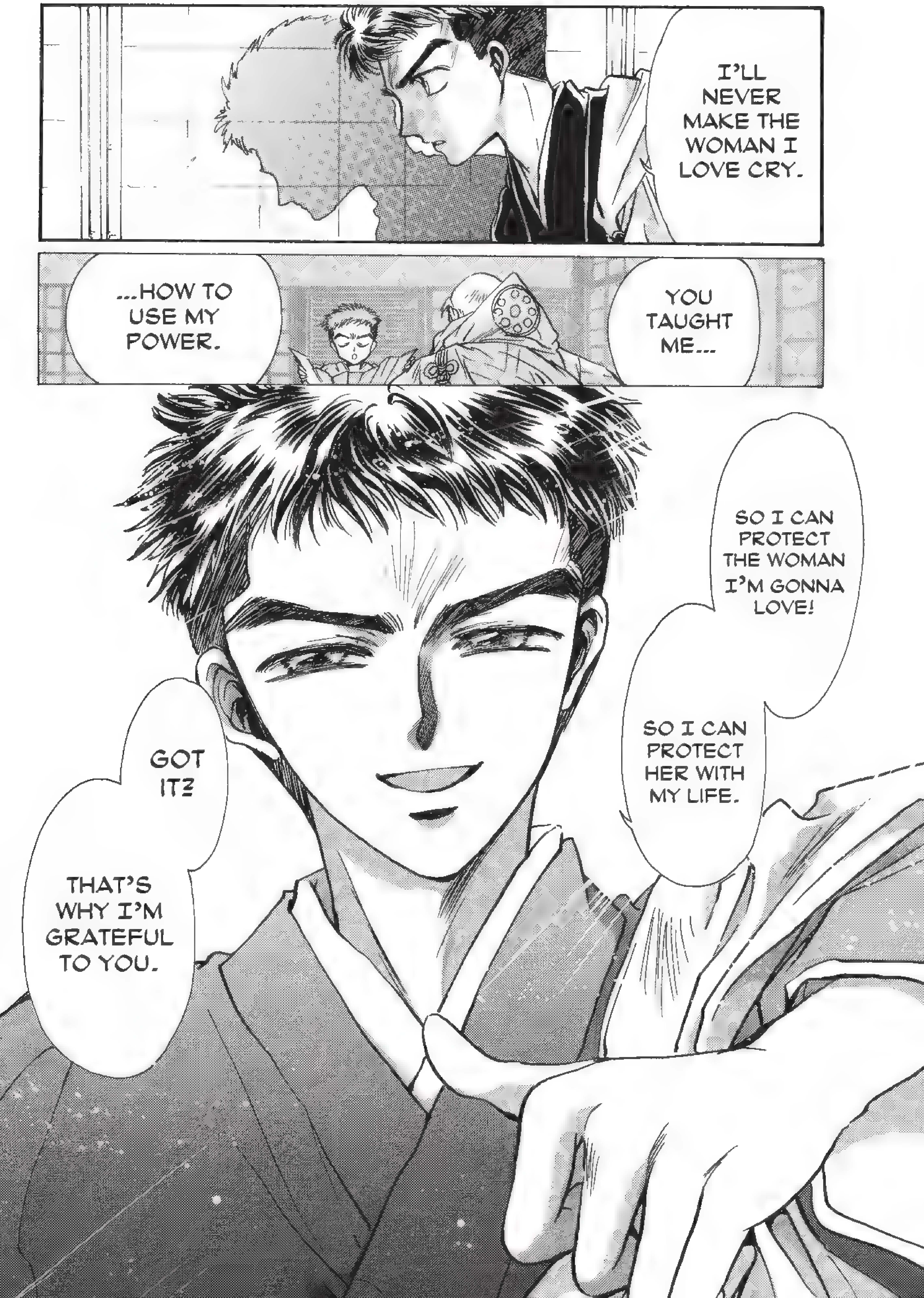

LOOK HERE, SORATA! THAT'S AN OFFERING, NOT A SNACK!
HAHAHA
UMM!
EH HEH
IT SEEMS THAT THE PRODIGIOUS AMOUNT HE PUT AWAY AT THE EVENING MEAL WASN'T ENOUGH.
TMP TMP

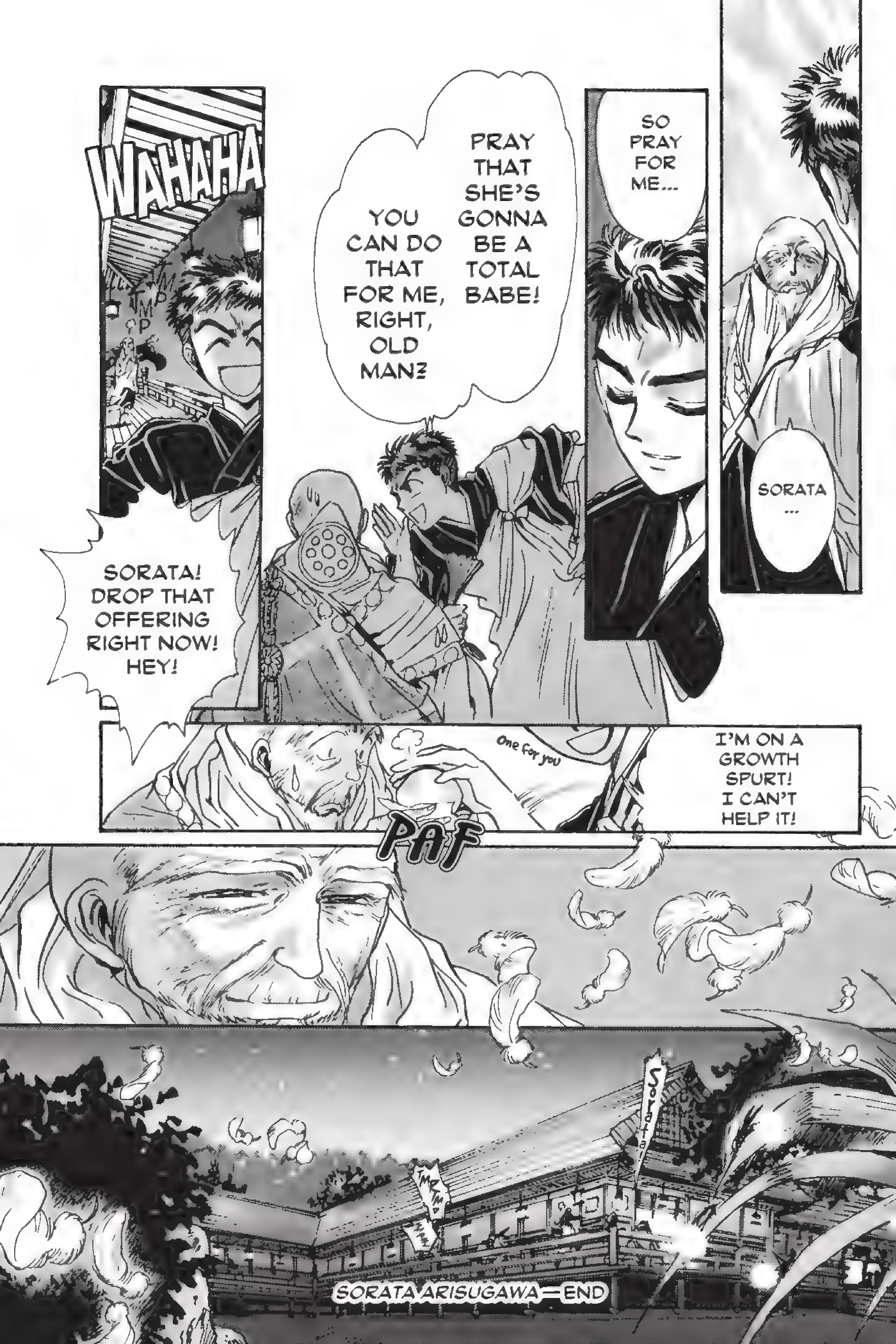

SORATA'S POWER ...
...GROWS STRONGER AND STRONGER.
EVEN HERE IN KOYA...
...THERE IS NO ONE WHO COULD DEFEAT THAT BOY.
THE SEVEN STARS IN THE SKY...


THE DRAGONS OF HEAVEN.
HE WAS ONLY THREE YEARS OLD...
...WHEN WE TOOK HIM FROM HIS PARENTS...
...AS THE STARS DECREED.
THEIR FACES ARE LOST TO HIM NOW.
EVEN IF IT WAS TO PROTECT THE WORLD... ...I WONDER...
...WAS IT A CRUEL THING, TO BRING SORATA HERE?


YOU THINK TOO MUCH, OLD MAN.
POING
FWUP
YO!
TOMP
YA KNOW ...
...I LIKE IT HERE!
SURE, YOU CAN BE DAMN SCARY WHEN YOU'RE ANGRY...
...BUT YOU'RE PRETTY NICE!
BESIDES ...
I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU.
GRATEFUL ...?


YOU GAVE ME THAT PROPHECY, RIGHT?
THAT I'LL DIE FOR THE WOMAN I LOVE.
I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT MY MOM LOOKED LIKE.
BUT SHE WAS CRYING. I DO KNOW THAT.
AND SEEIN' HER SO SAD...
...MADE ME REALLY SAD TOO.
Y'SEE...
I JUST CAN'T STAND SEEIN' A WOMAN CRY.
OLD MAN...


I'LL NEVER MAKE THE WOMAN I LOVE CRY.
YOU TAUGHT ME...
...HOW TO USE MY POWER.
SO I CAN PROTECT THE WOMAN I'M GONNA LOVE!
SO I CAN PROTECT HER WITH MY LIFE.
GOT IT?
THAT'S WHY I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU.

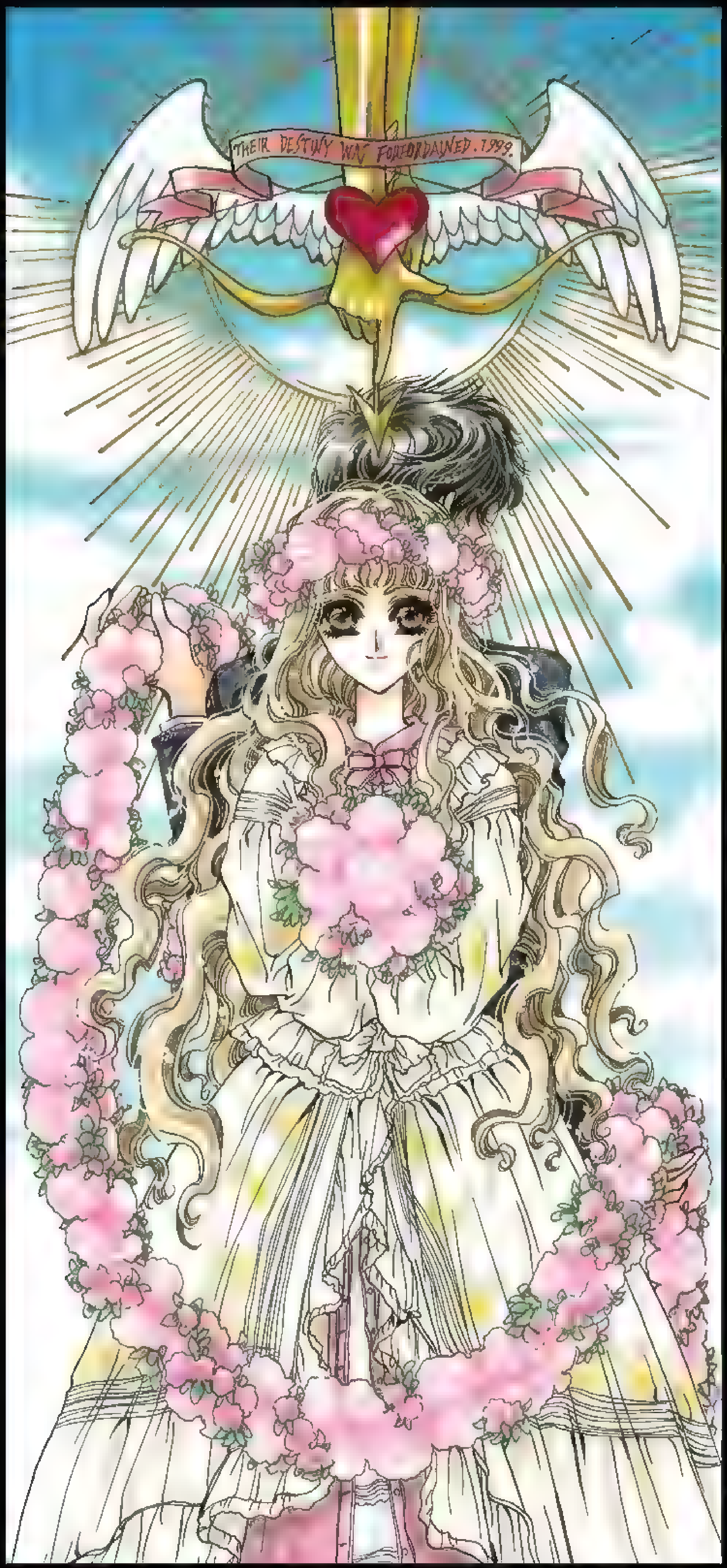

SO PRAY FOR ME...
SORATA ...
PRAY THAT SHE'S GONNA BE A TOTAL BABE!
YOU CAN DO THAT FOR ME, RIGHT, OLD MAN?
WAHAHA
TMP TMP
SORATA! DROP THAT OFFERING RIGHT NOW! HEY!
I'M ON A GROWTH SPURT! I CAN'T HELP IT!
One for you
PAF
Sorata!
TMP TMP
WAH
SORATA ARISUGAWA—END

X

VOLUME 2, PART 3

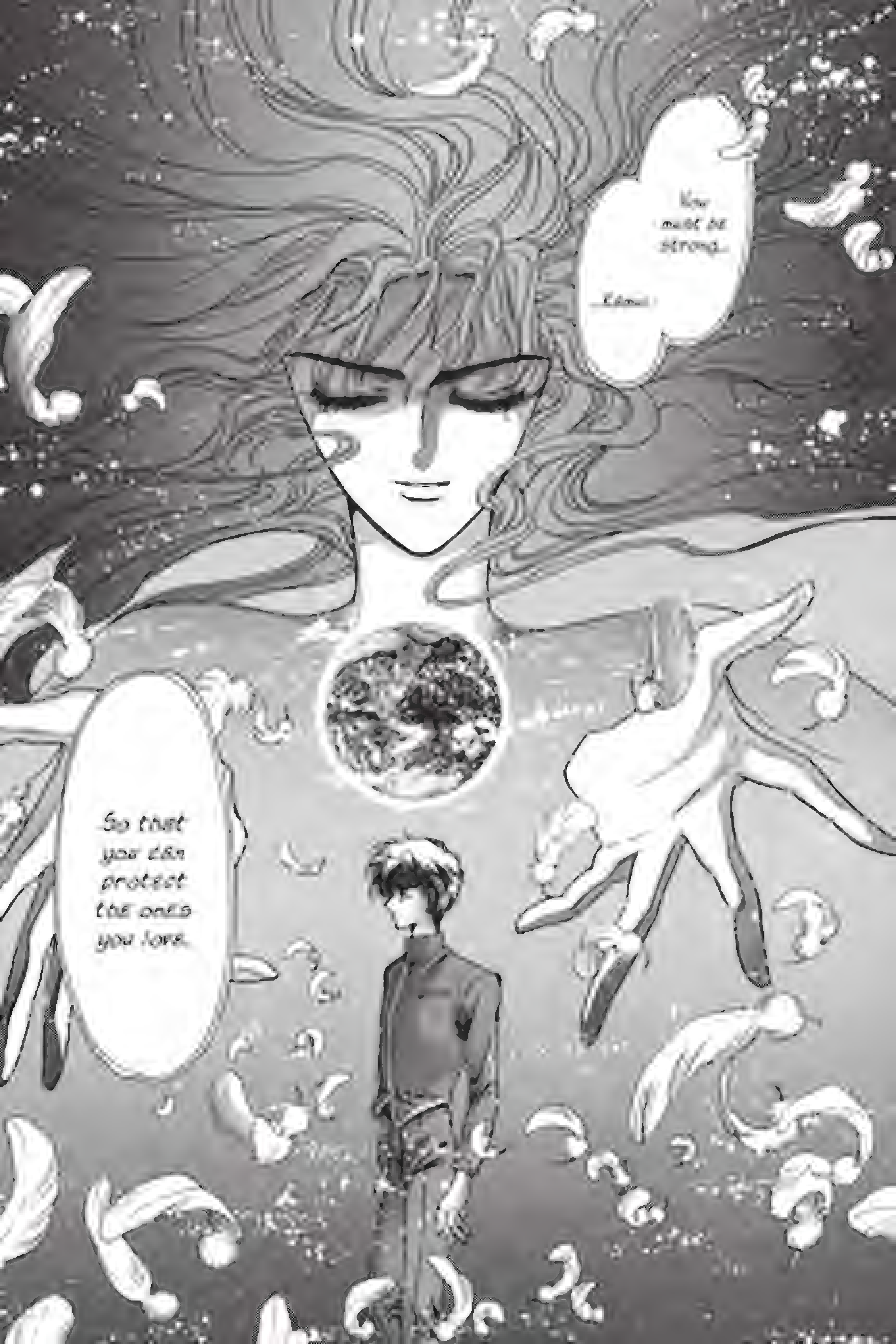
THE SEVEN LUMINARIES IV

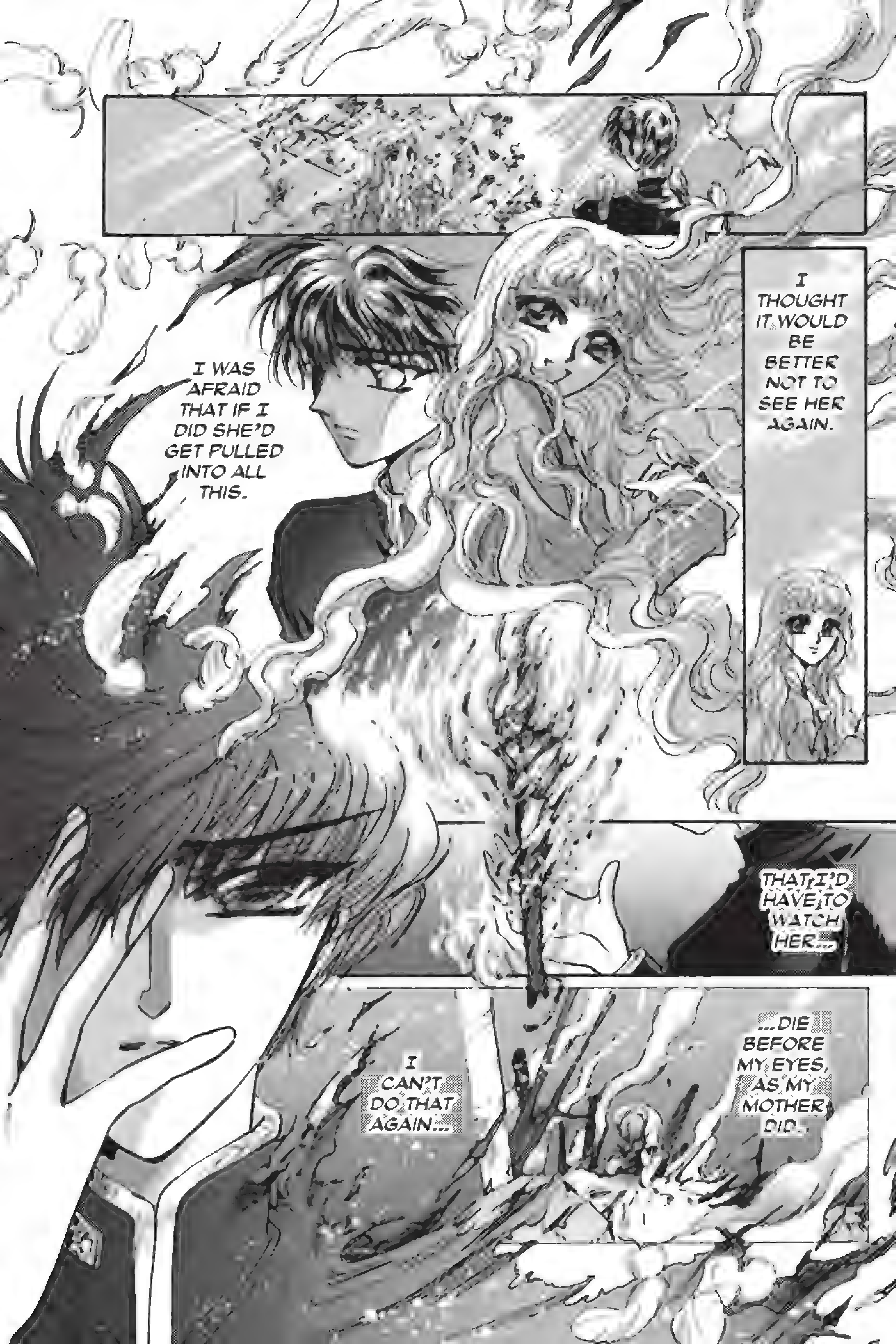
X

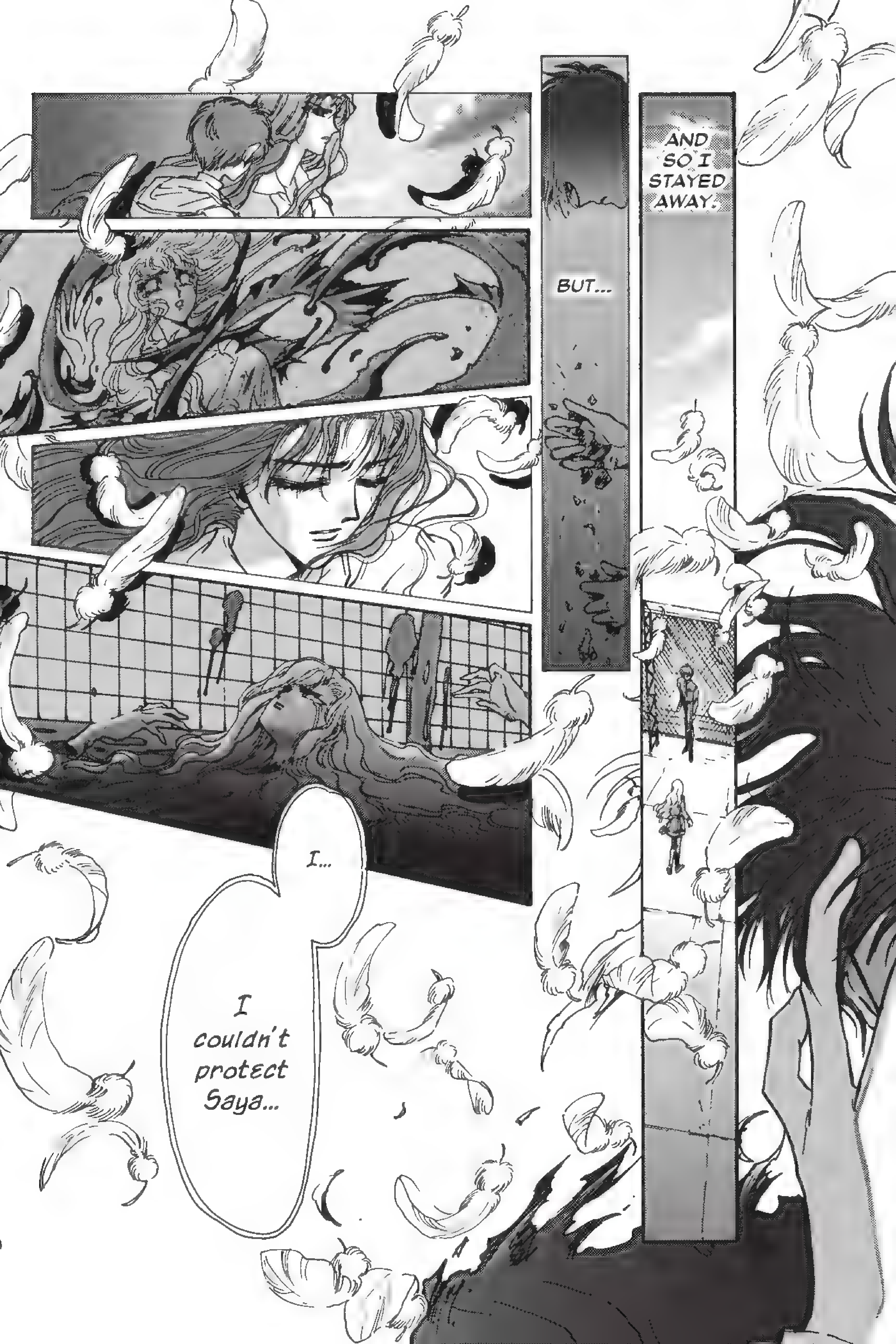

THEIR DESTINY WAS FOREORDAINED 1999.

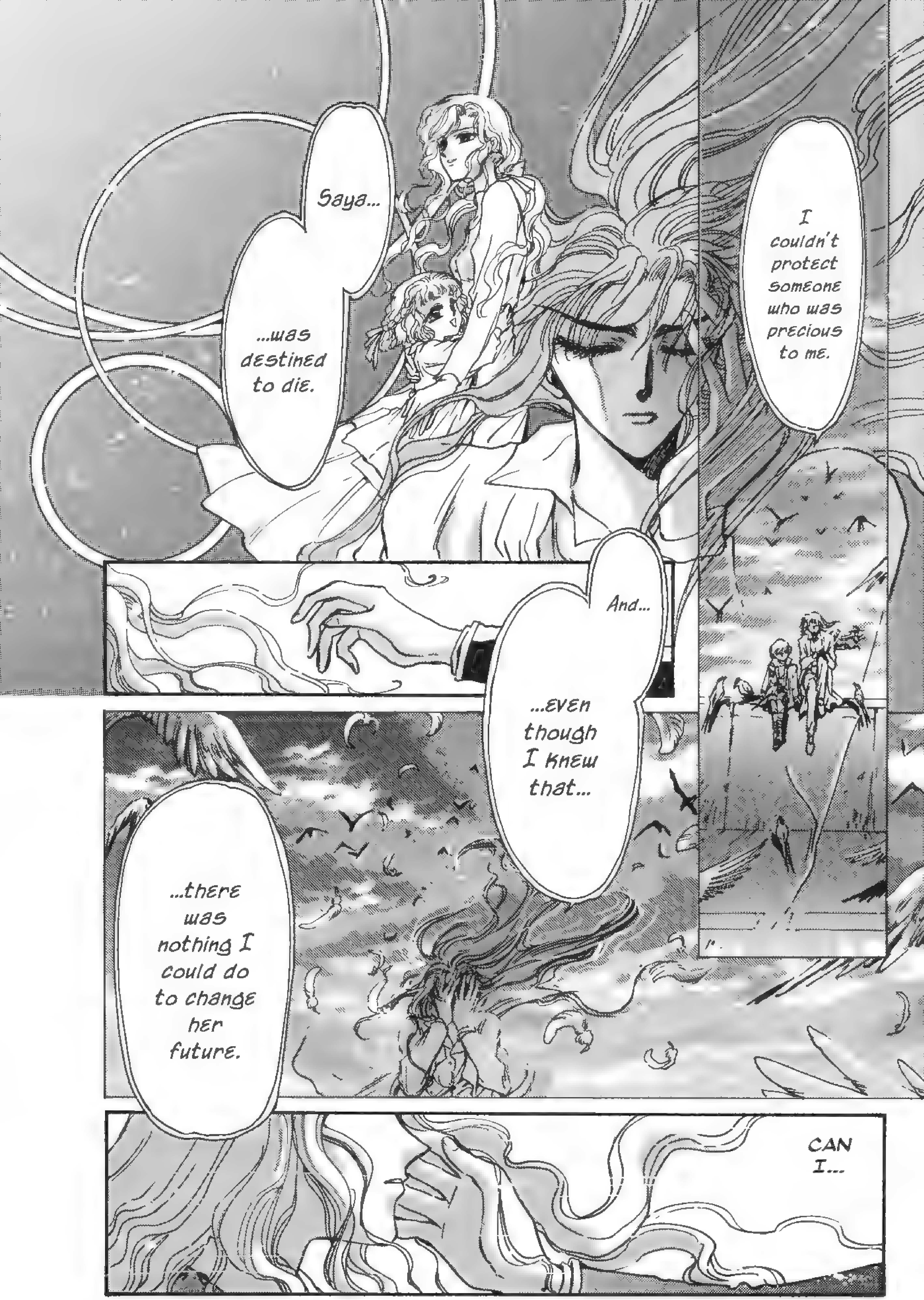
6 THE LOVERS

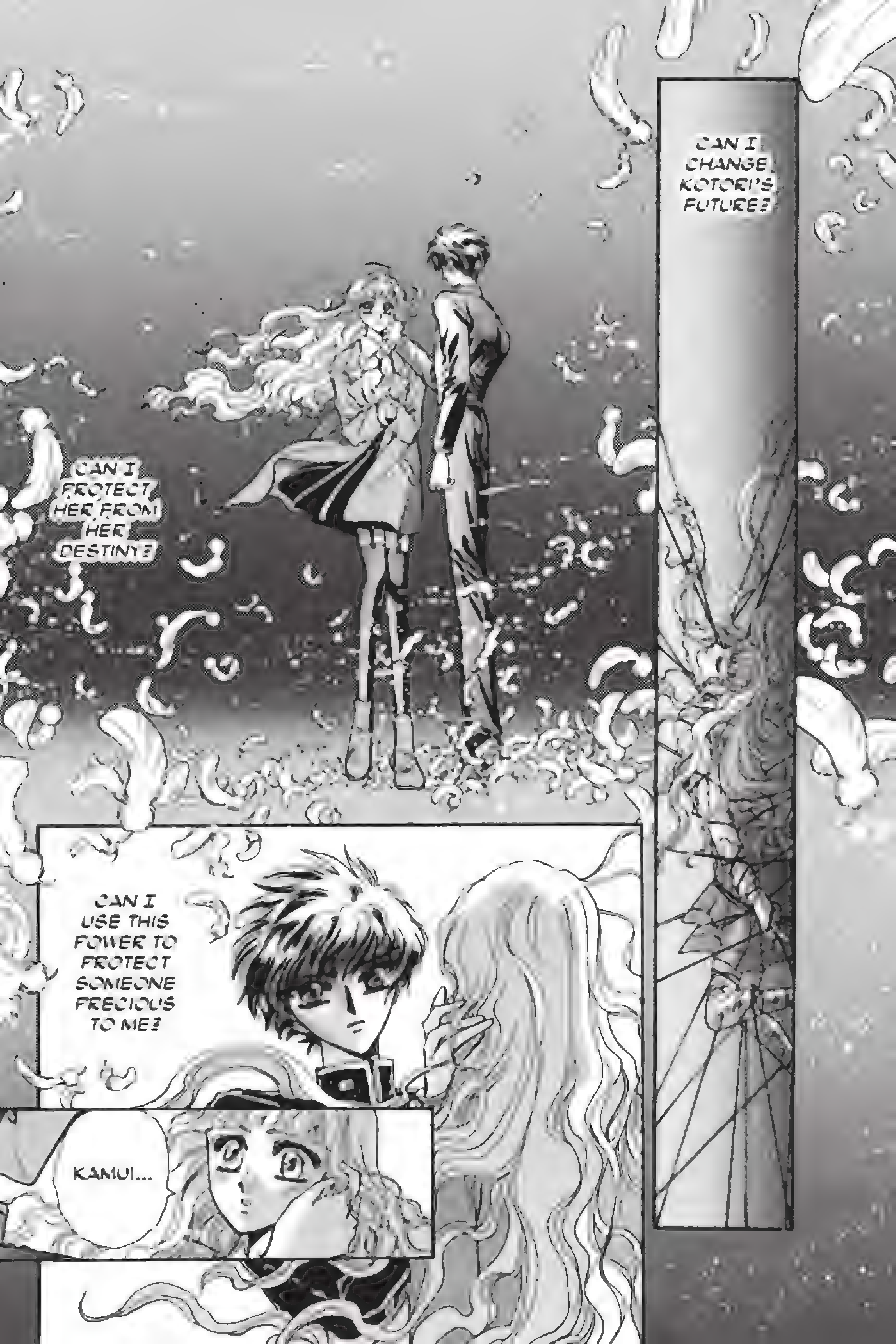
ז

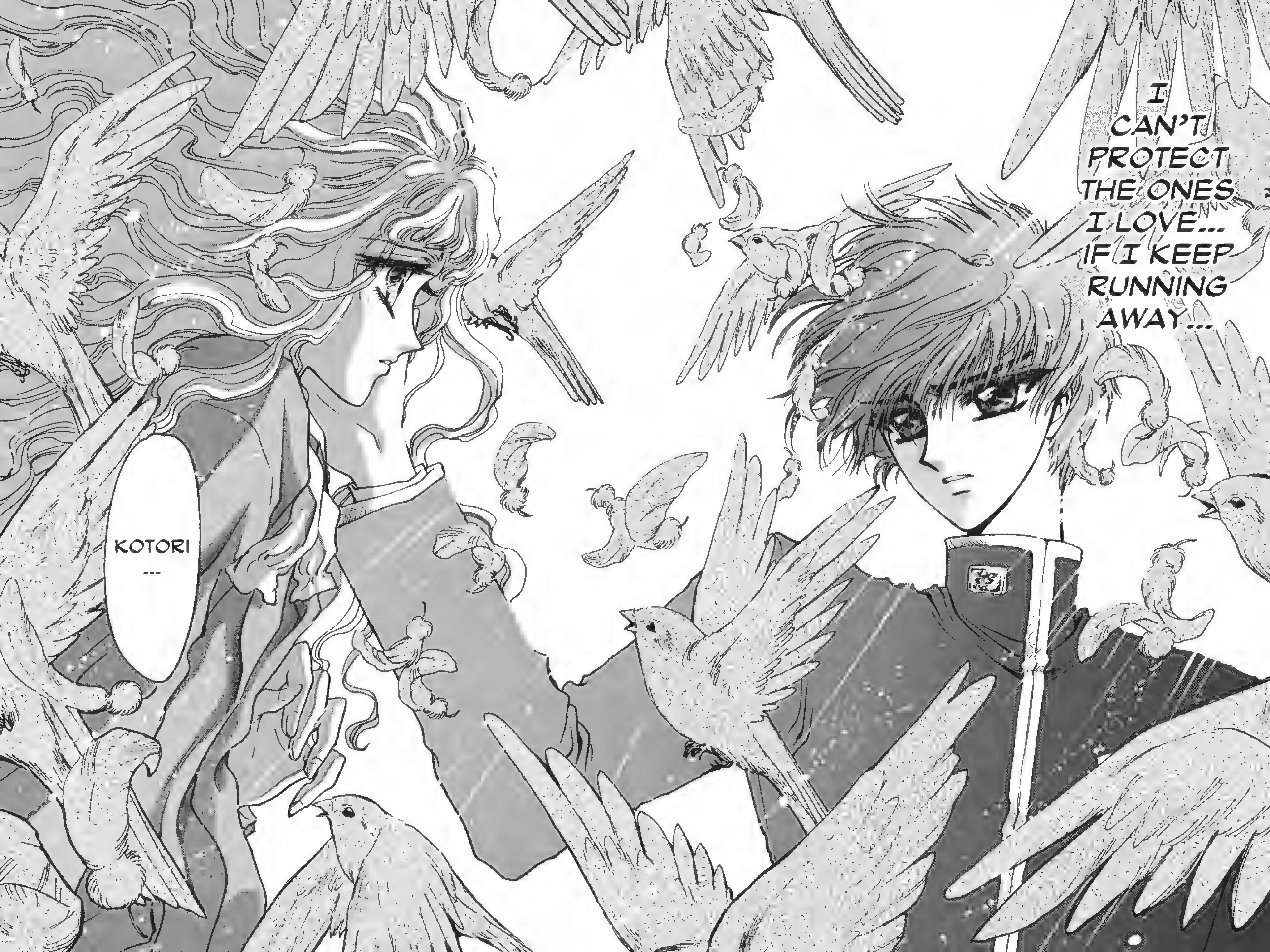

You must be strong... ...Kamui
So that you can protect the ones you love.

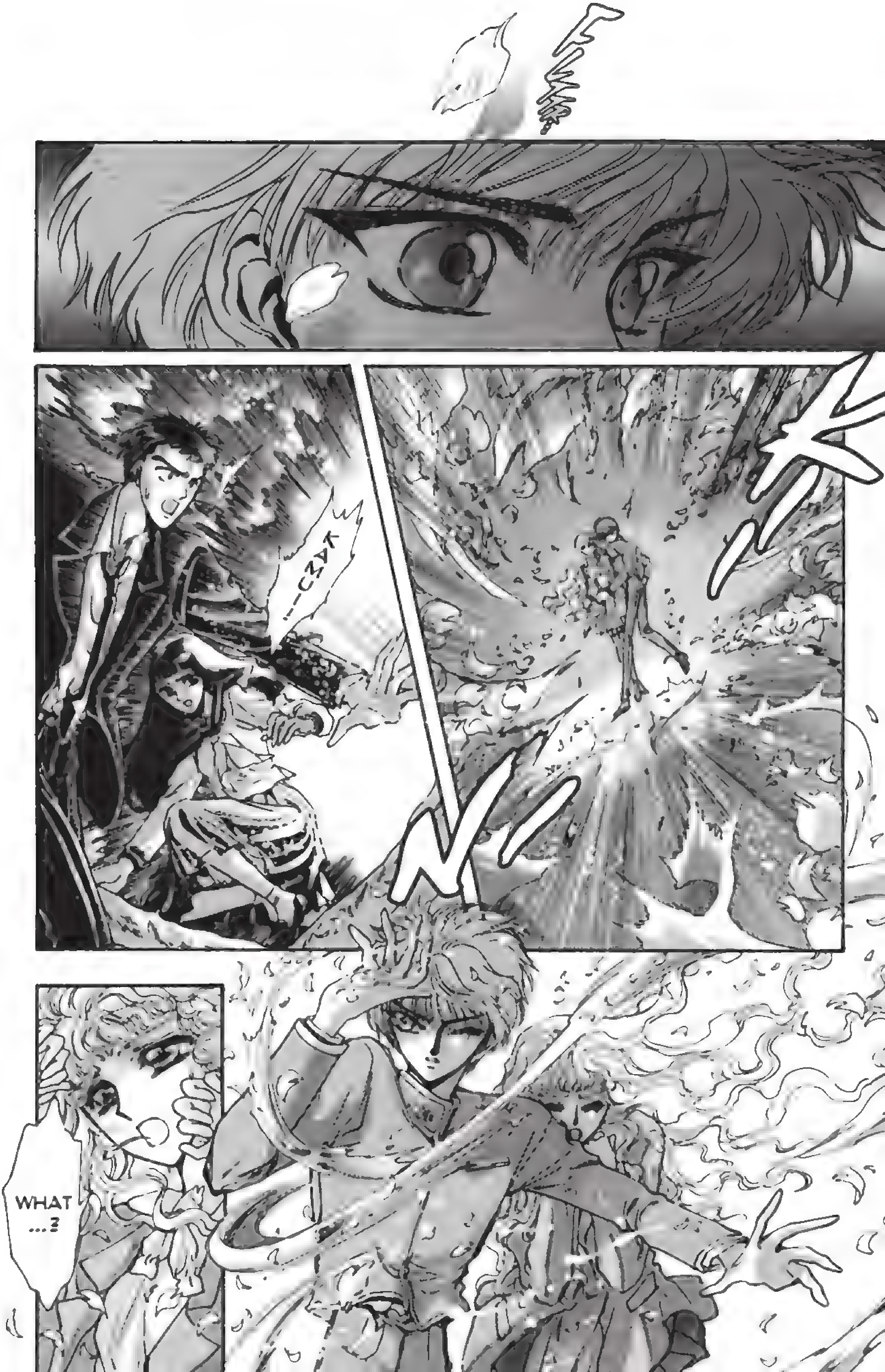

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER NOT TO SEE HER AGAIN.
I WAS AFRAID THAT IF I DID SHE'D GET PULLED INTO ALL THIS.
THAT I'D HAVE TO WATCH HER...
...DIE BEFORE MY EYES, AS MY MOTHER DID.
I CAN'T DO THAT AGAIN...

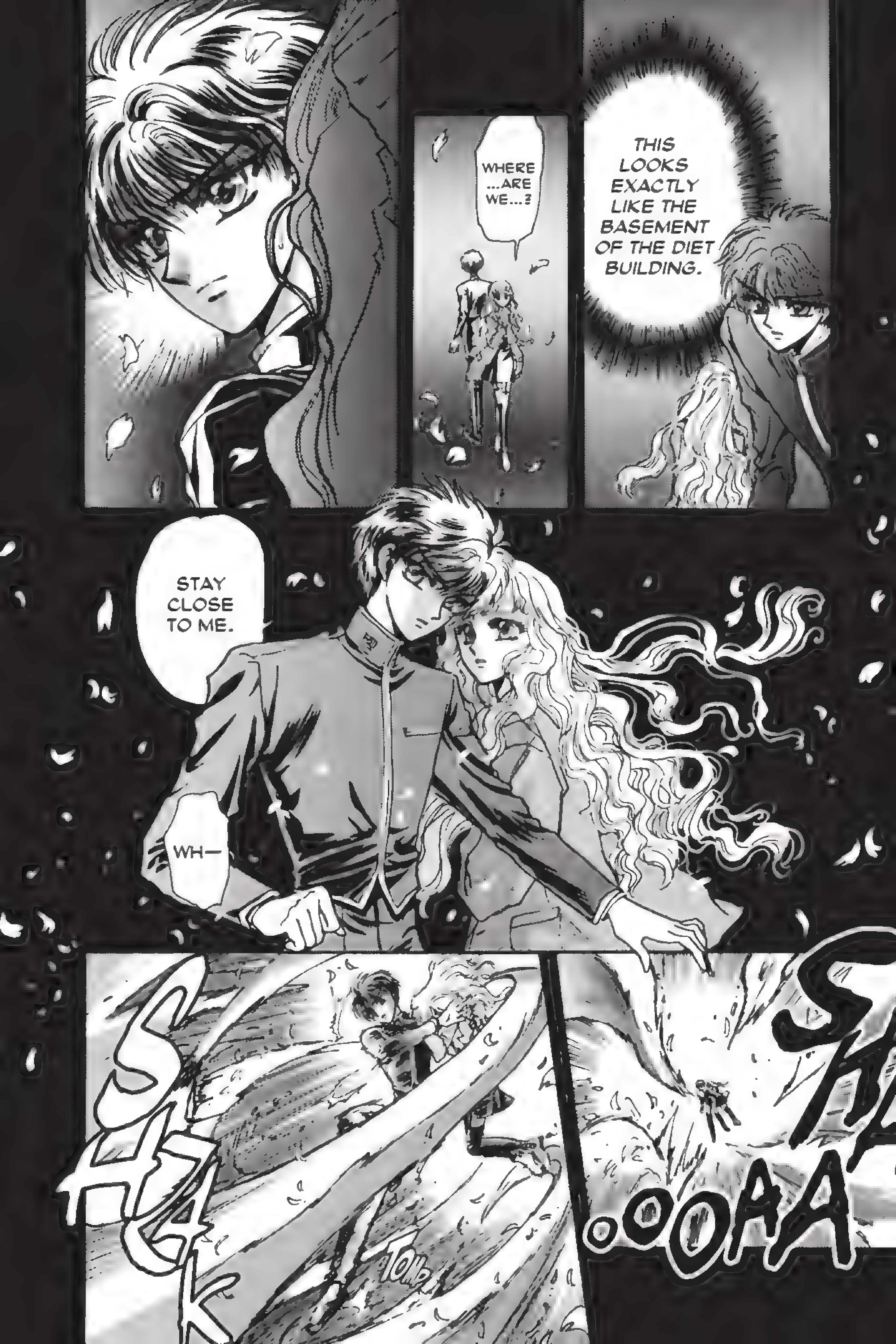

AND SO I STAYED AWAY.
BUT...
I...
I couldn't protect Saya...

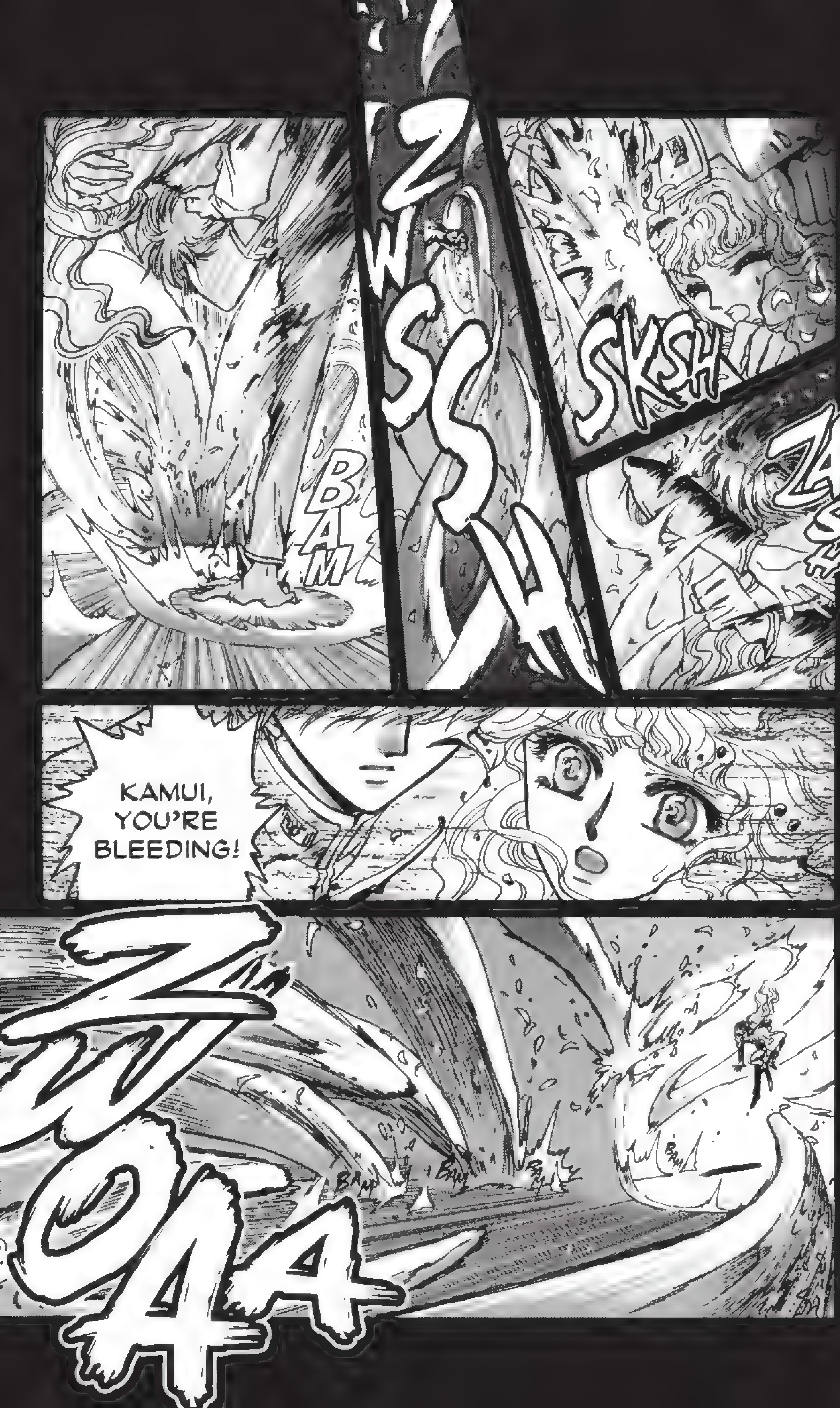

I couldn't protect someone who was precious to me.
Saya...
...was destined to die.
And...
...even though I knew that...
...there was nothing I could do to change her future.
CAN I...

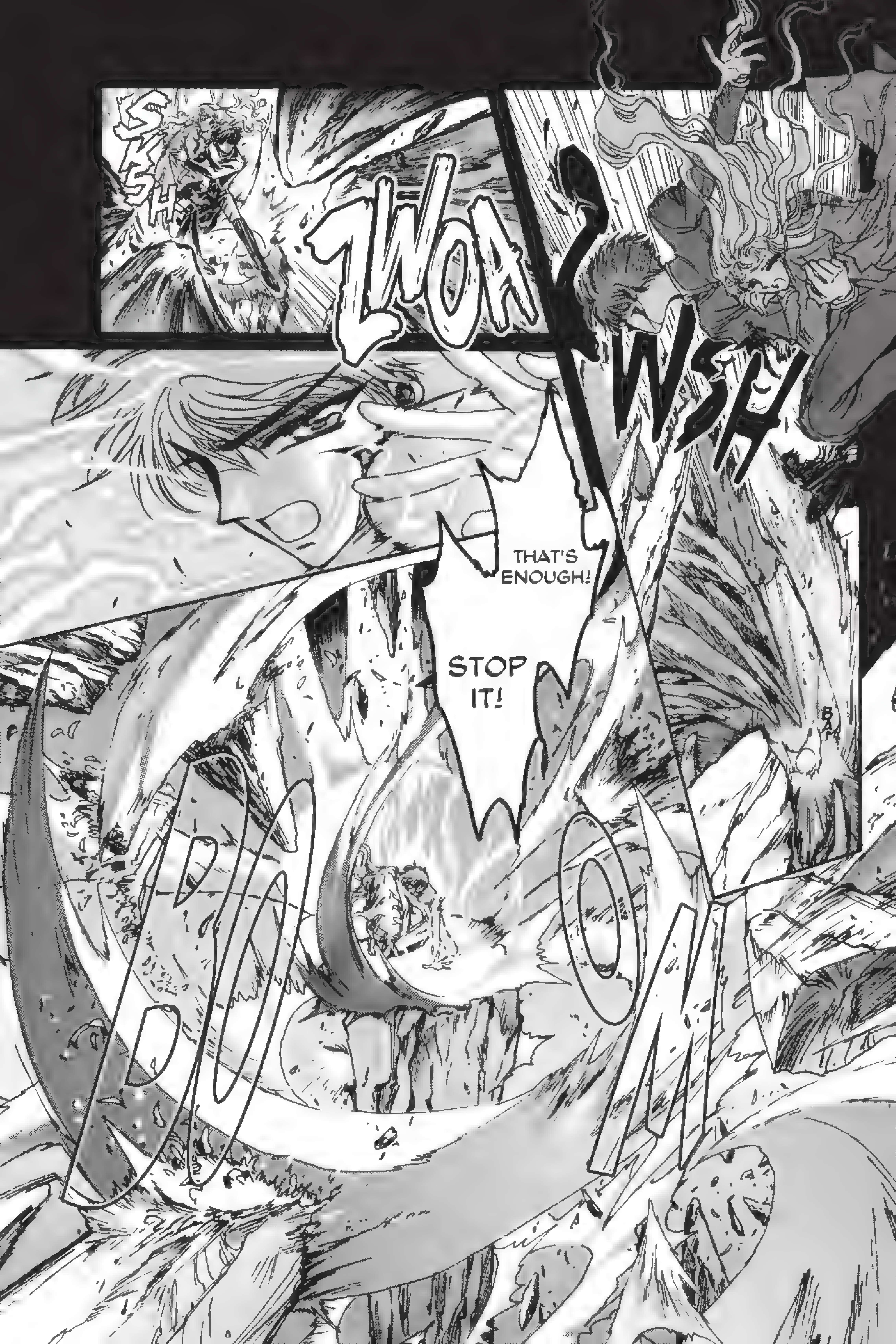

CAN I CHANGE KOTORI'S FUTURE?
CAN I PROTECT HER FROM HER DESTINY?
CAN I USE THIS POWER TO PROTECT SOMEONE PRECIOUS TO ME?
KAMUI...

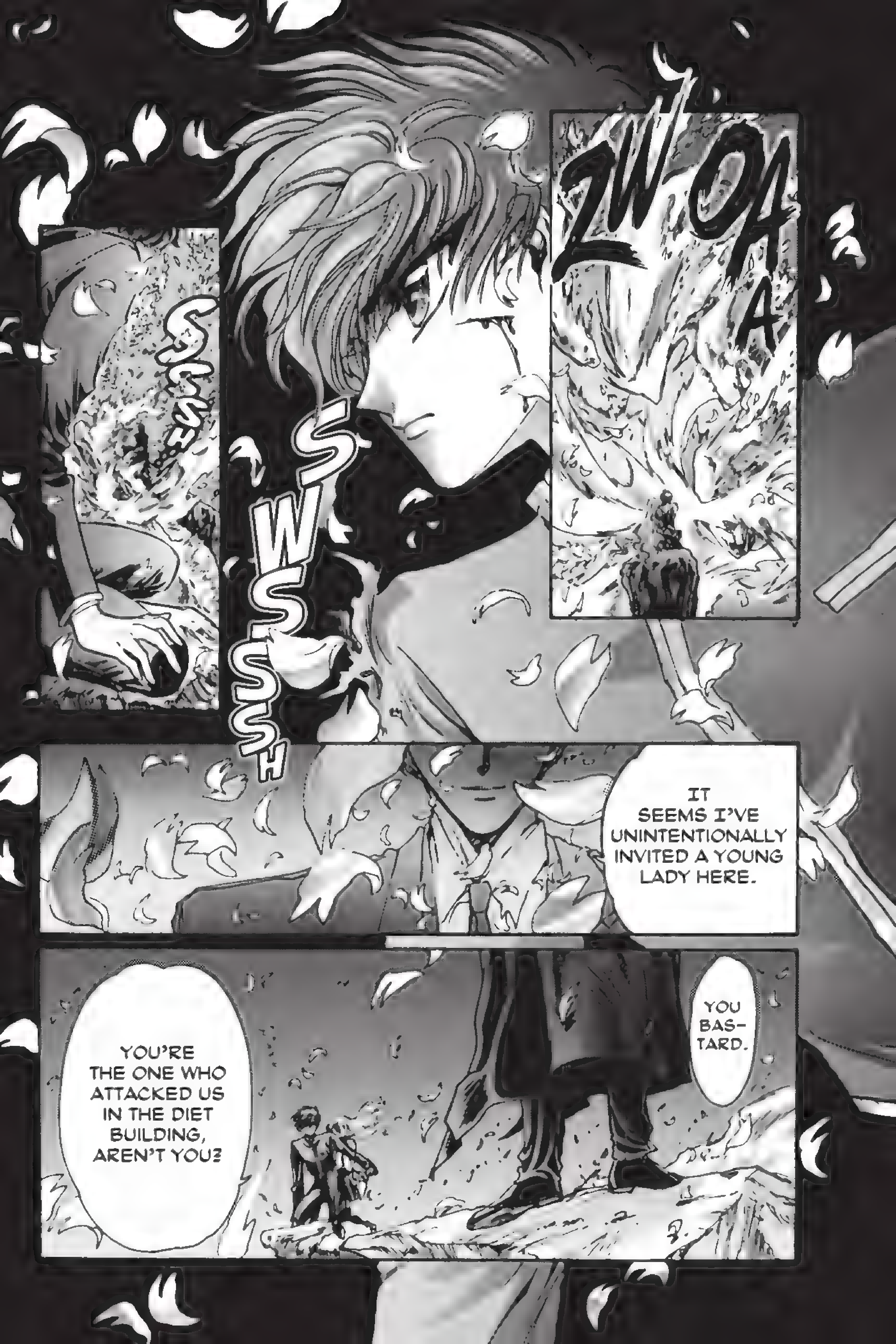

I CAN'T PROTECT THE ONES I LOVE... IF I KEEP RUNNING AWAY...
KOTORI ...

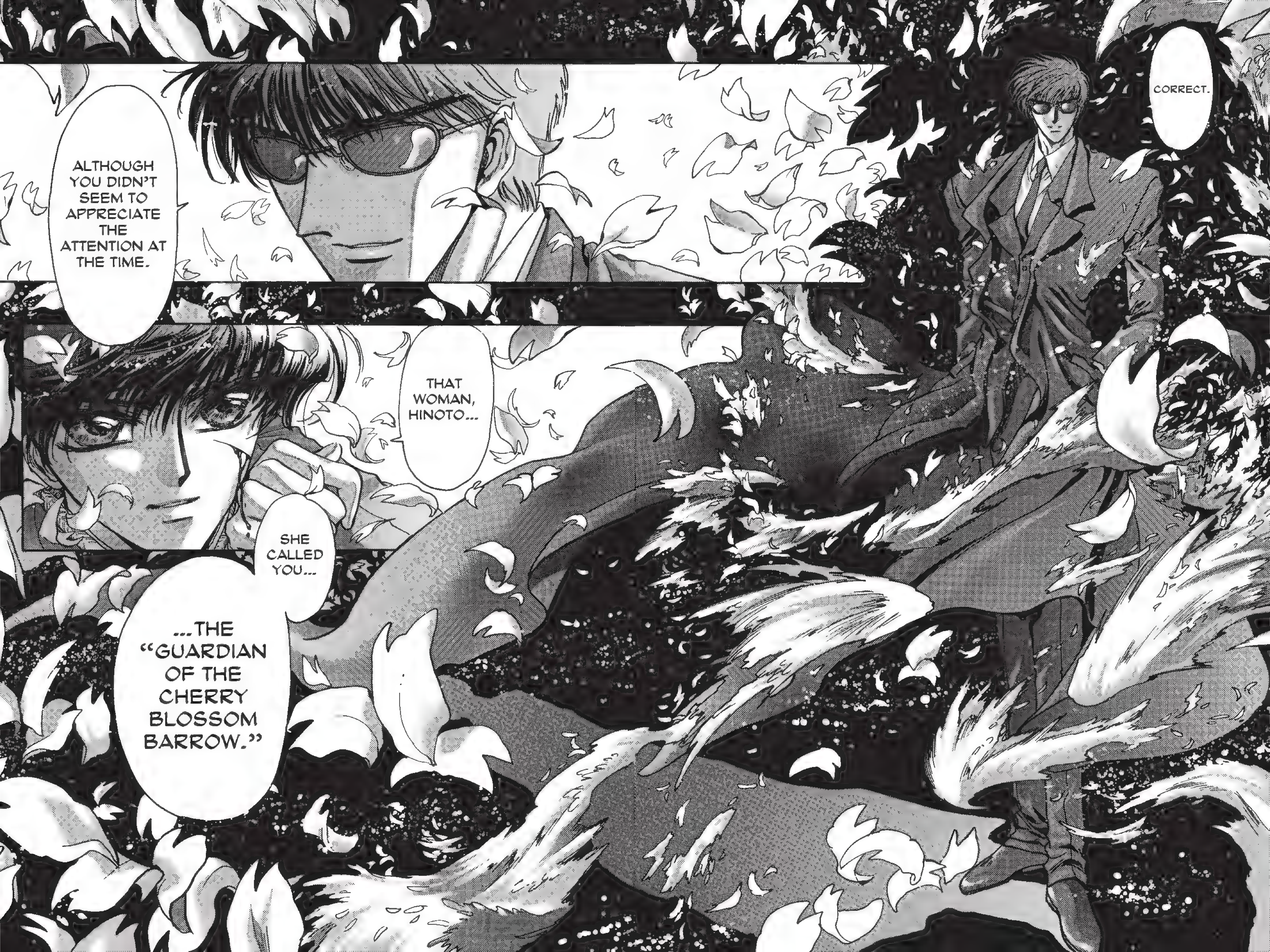

KAZU...!!
WHAT ...?

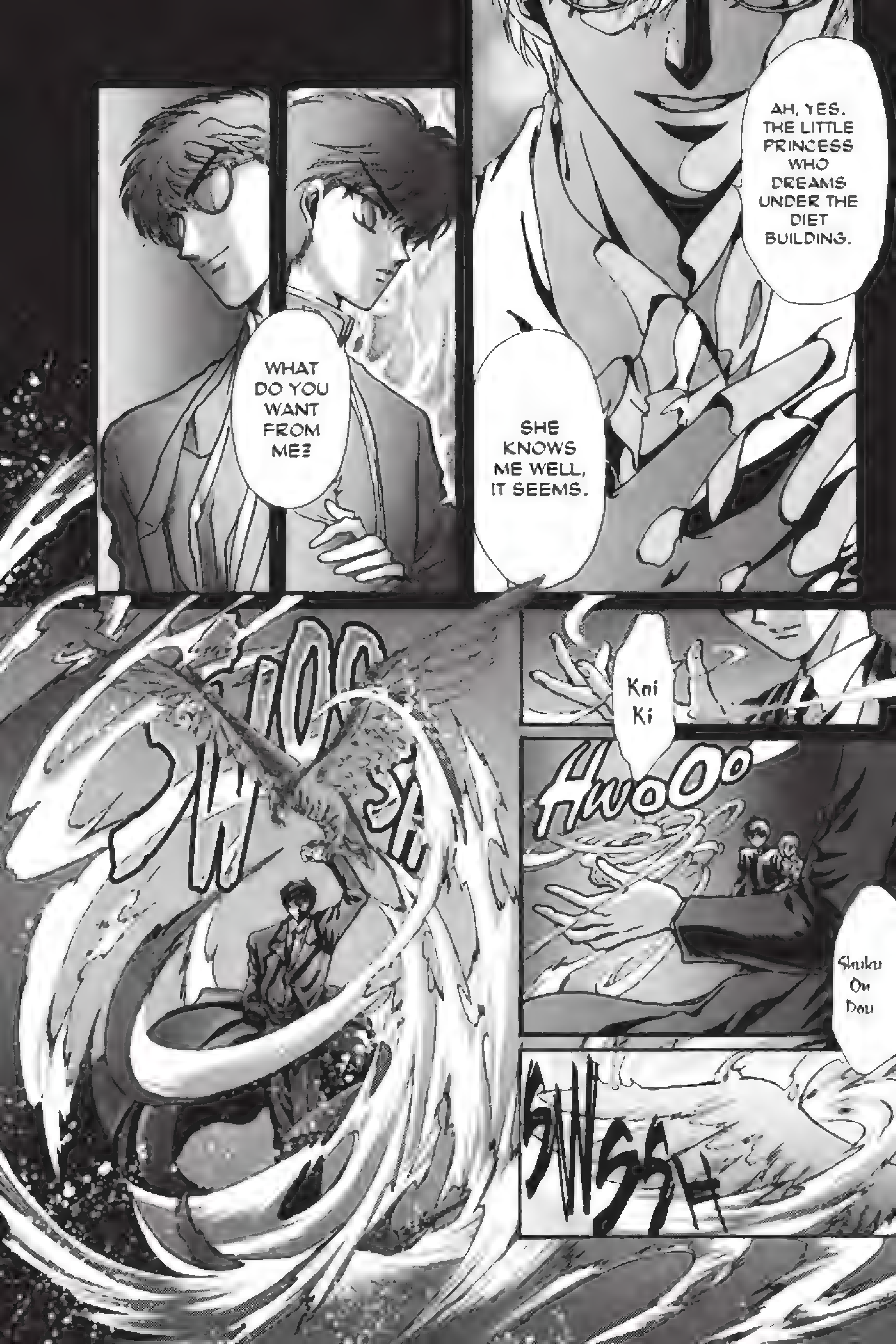

THIS LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THE BASEMENT OF THE DIET BUILDING.
WHERE ...ARE WE...?
STAY CLOSE TO ME.
WH—
..OOAA
SHAK
TOMP

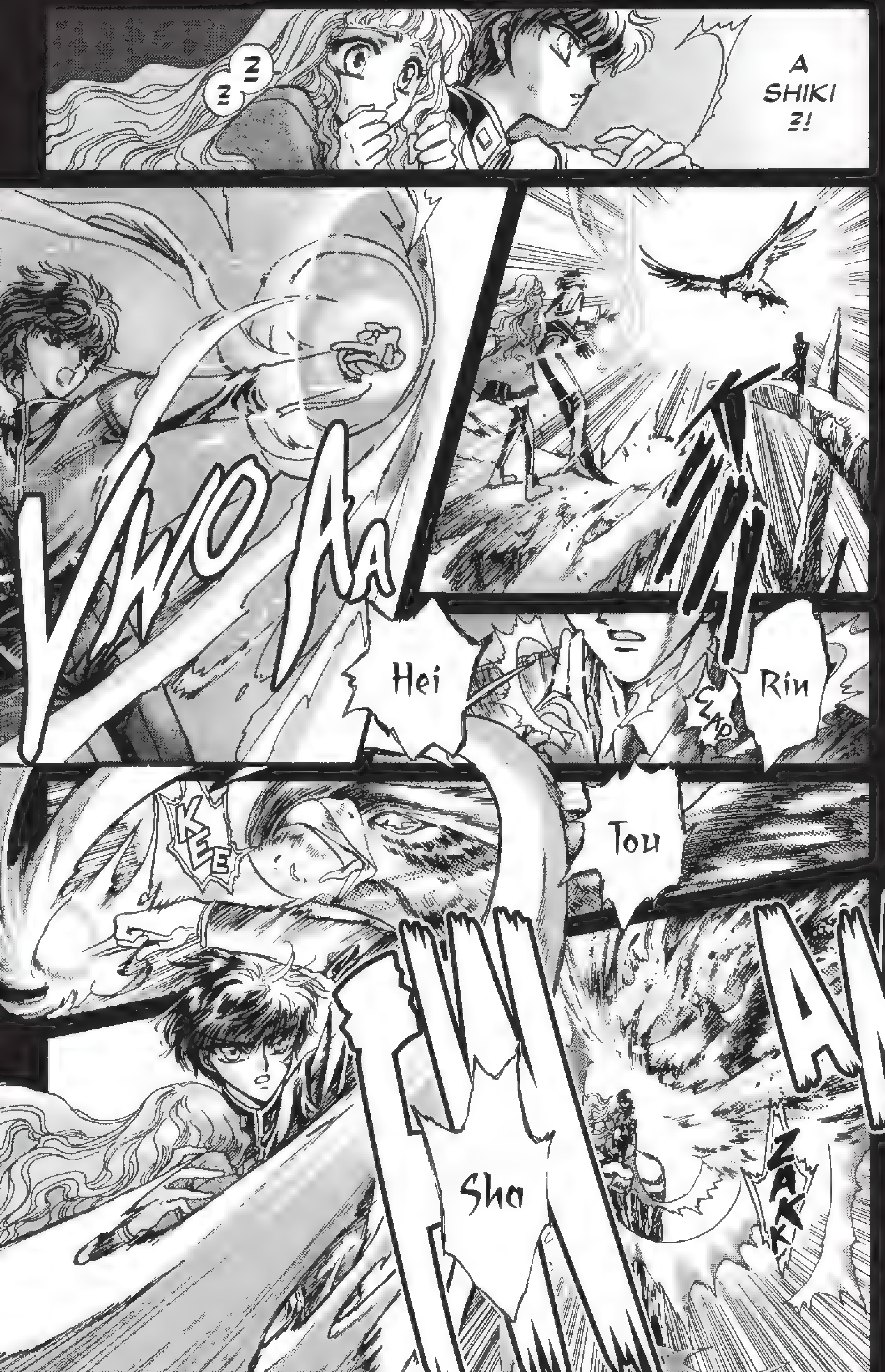

SKSH
ZASH
ZWSSSH
BLAM
KAMUI, YOU'RE BLEEDING!
ZWOAAA
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM

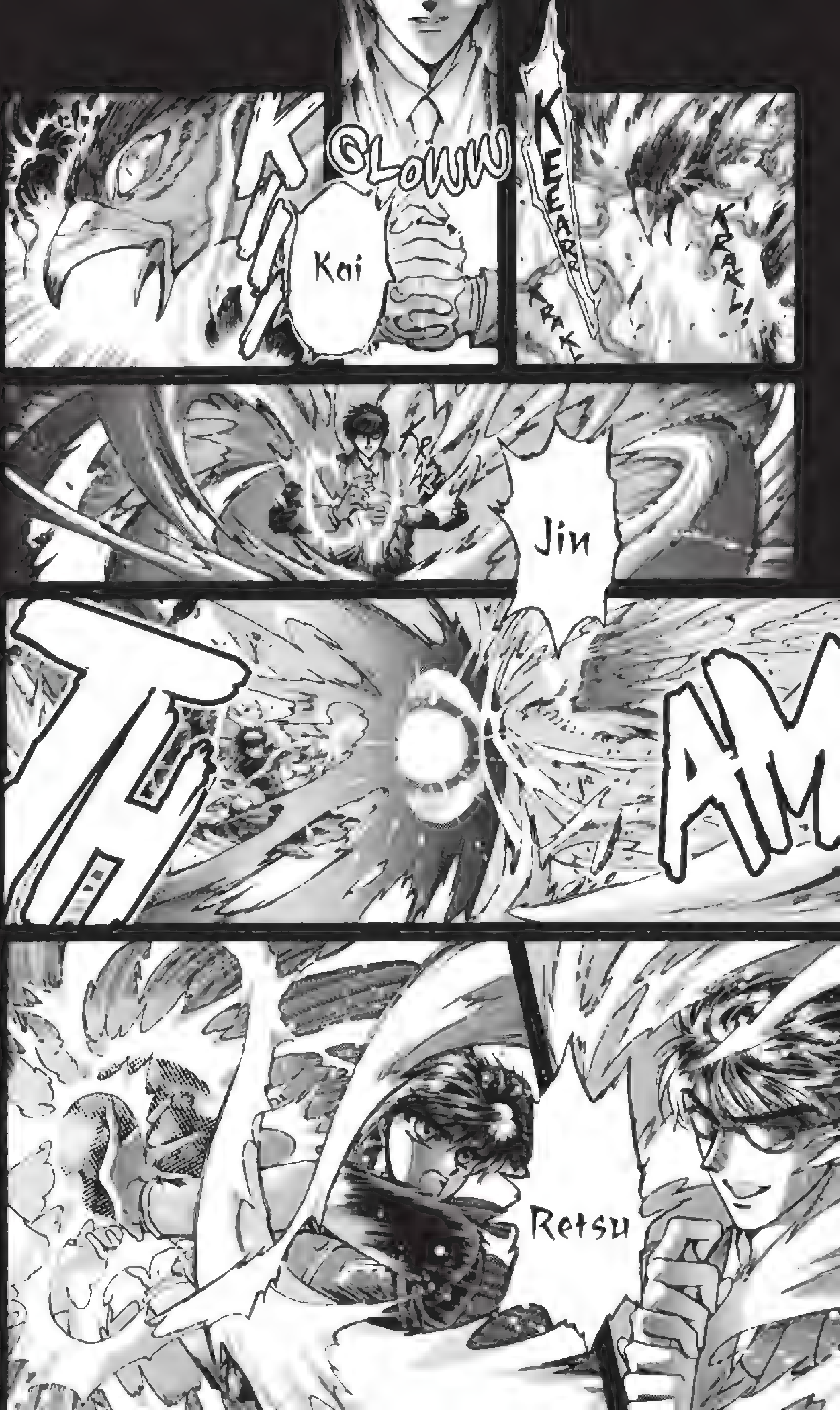

WSH
ZWOA
SHSH
THAT'S ENOUGH!
STOP IT!
BA
BOOOM

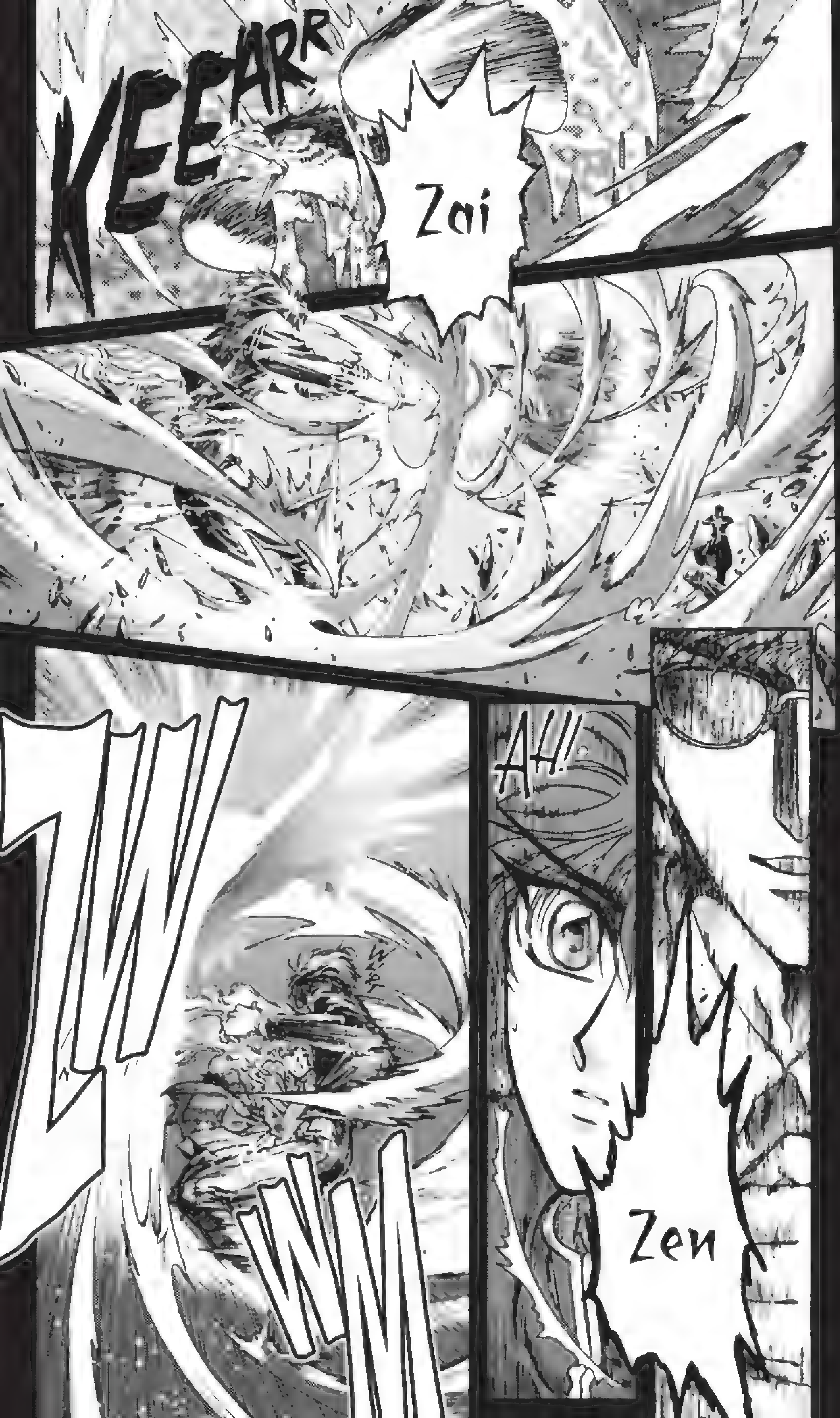

ZWOAA
SWSSSH
SSHSH
IT SEEMS I'VE UNINTENTIONALLY INVITED A YOUNG LADY HERE.
YOU BASTARD.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ATTACKED US IN THE DIET BUILDING, AREN'T YOU?


CORRECT.
ALTHOUGH YOU DIDN'T SEEM TO APPRECIATE THE ATTENTION AT THE TIME.
THAT WOMAN, HINOTO...
SHE CALLED YOU...
...THE "GUARDIAN OF THE CHERRY BLOSSOM BARROW."

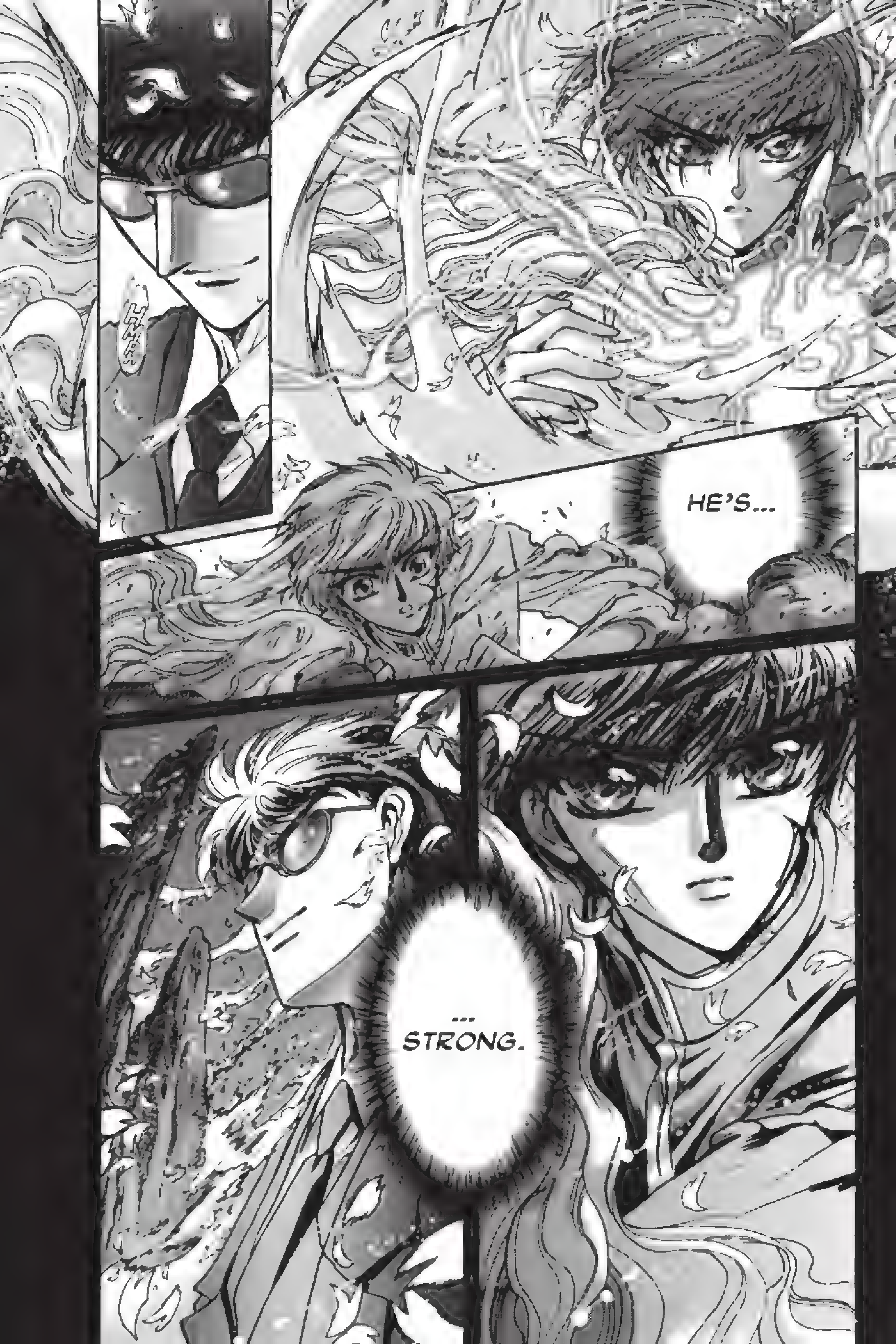

AH, YES. THE LITTLE PRINCESS WHO DREAMS UNDER THE DIET BUILDING.
SHE KNOWS ME WELL, IT SEEMS.
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
Kai Ki
HwoOo
Shuku On Dou
SWSSH
WHOOSH

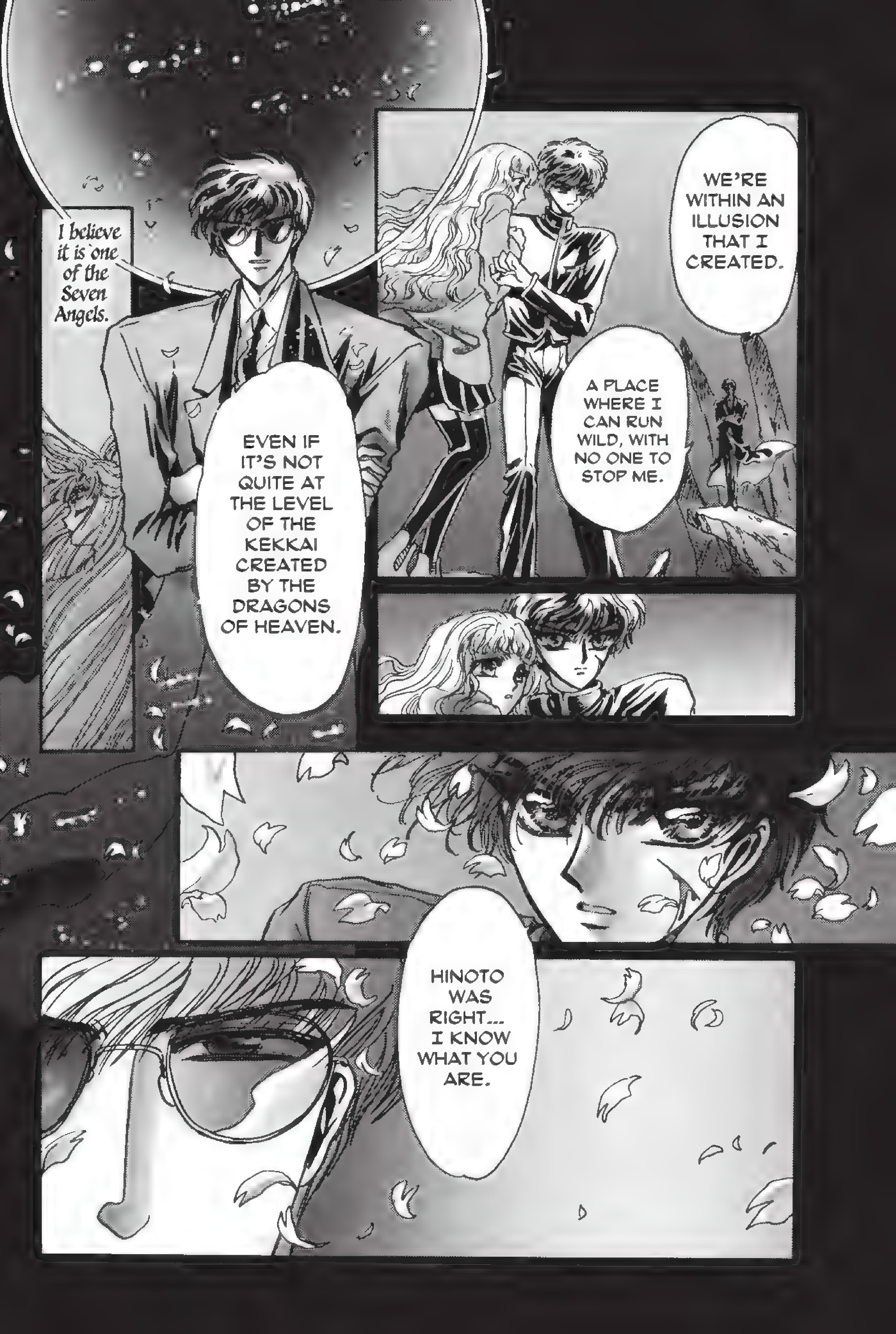

A SHIKI ?!
Z z Z
VWOAA
Rin
CLAP
Hei
Tou
KEE
TWAM
ZAKK
Sha

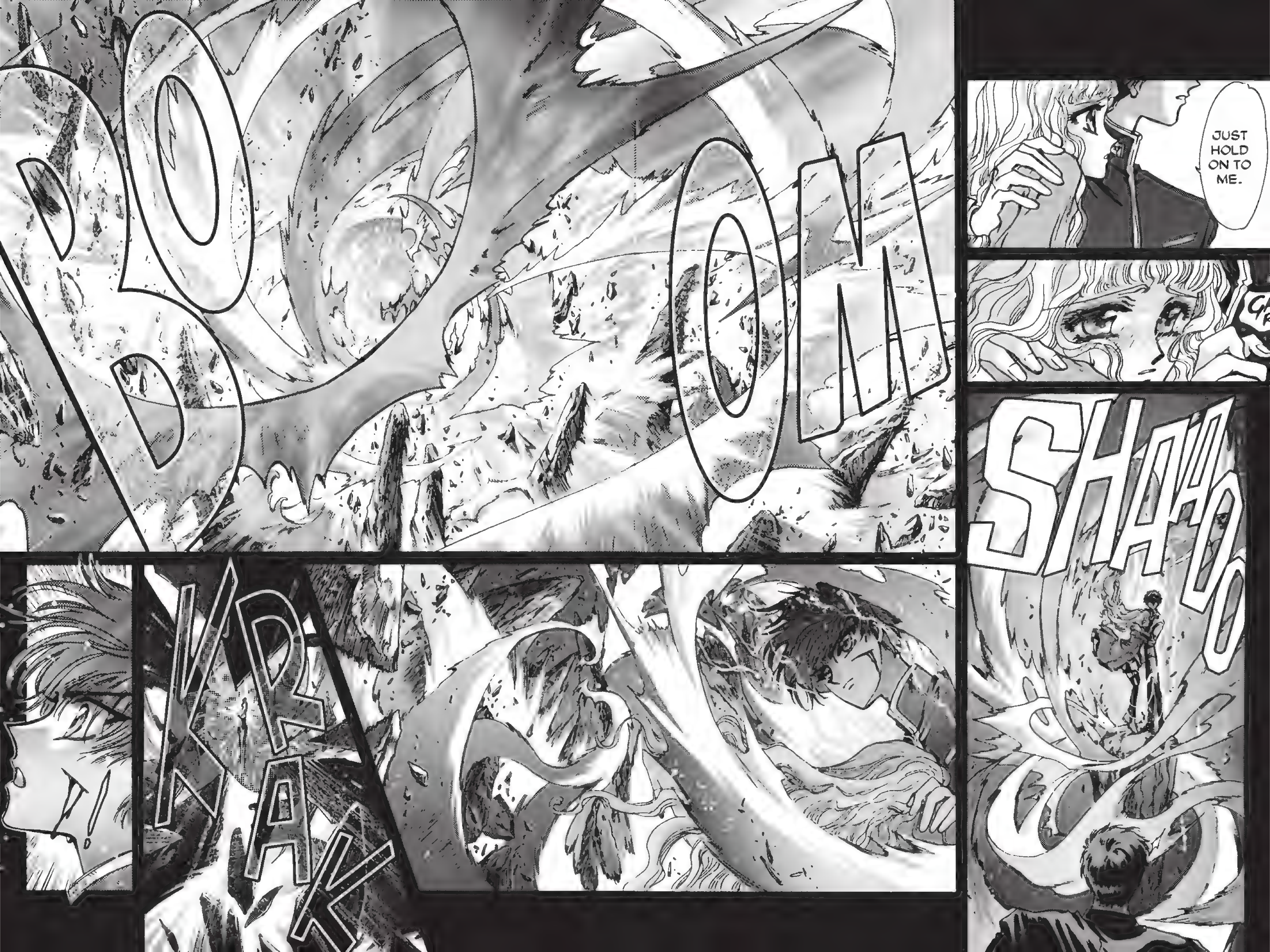

KRAKL!
KRAKL
KEEARR
GLOWW
K
Kai
KRAK
Jin
TH
AM
Retsu

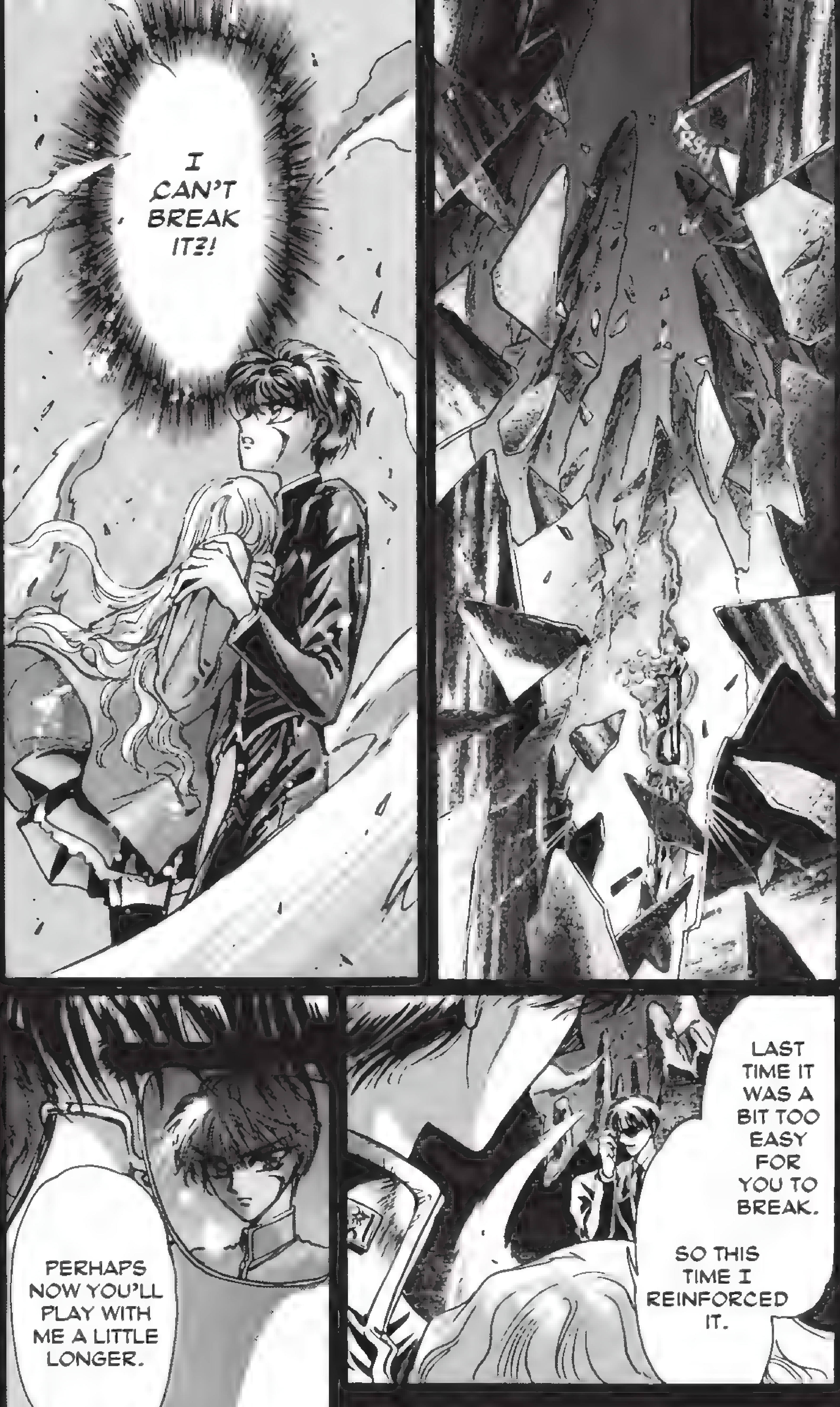

Zai
KEEPARR
AH!
Zen
ZW
WNM

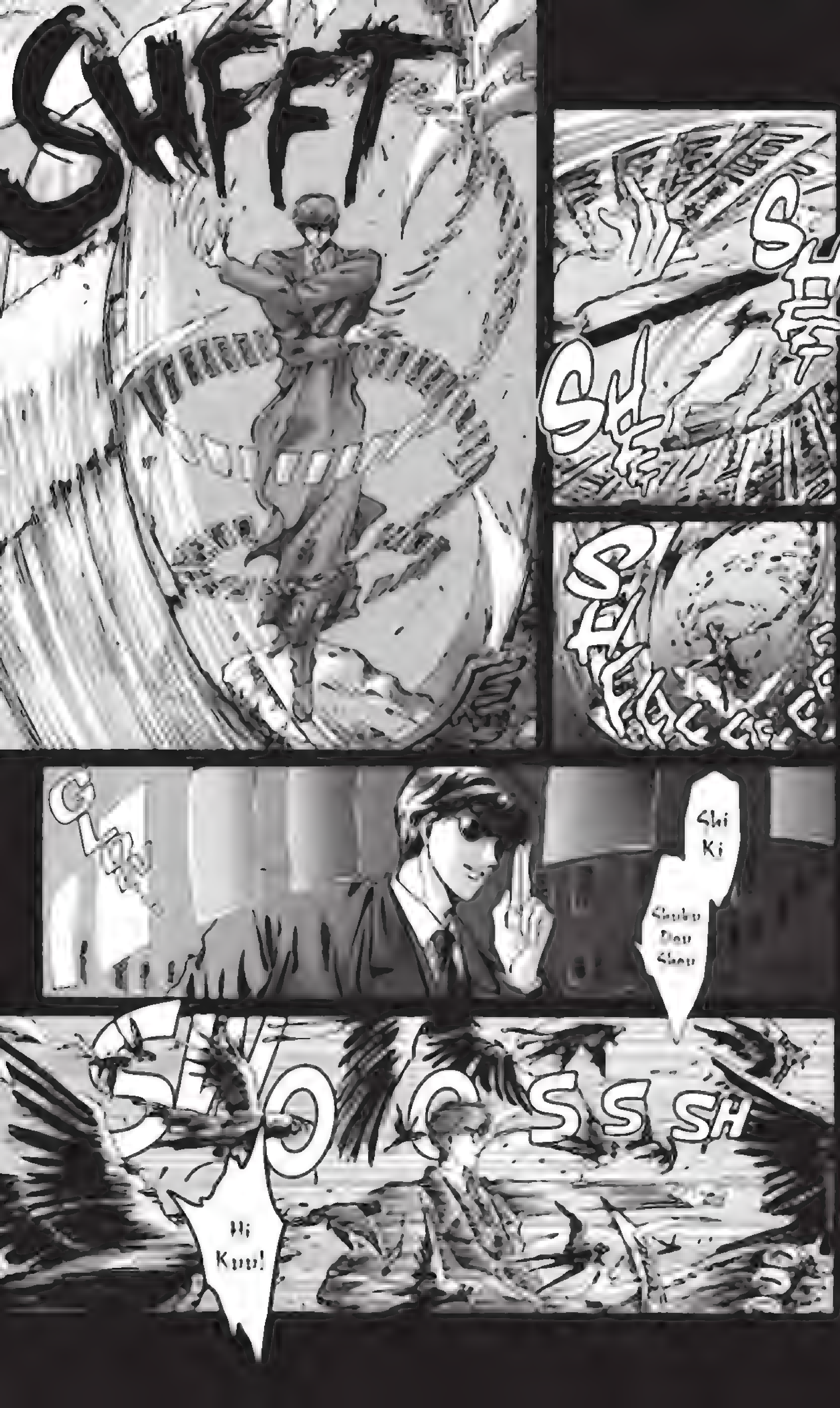
FSHHHH
VWP
VWOAA
BA
KOOOM

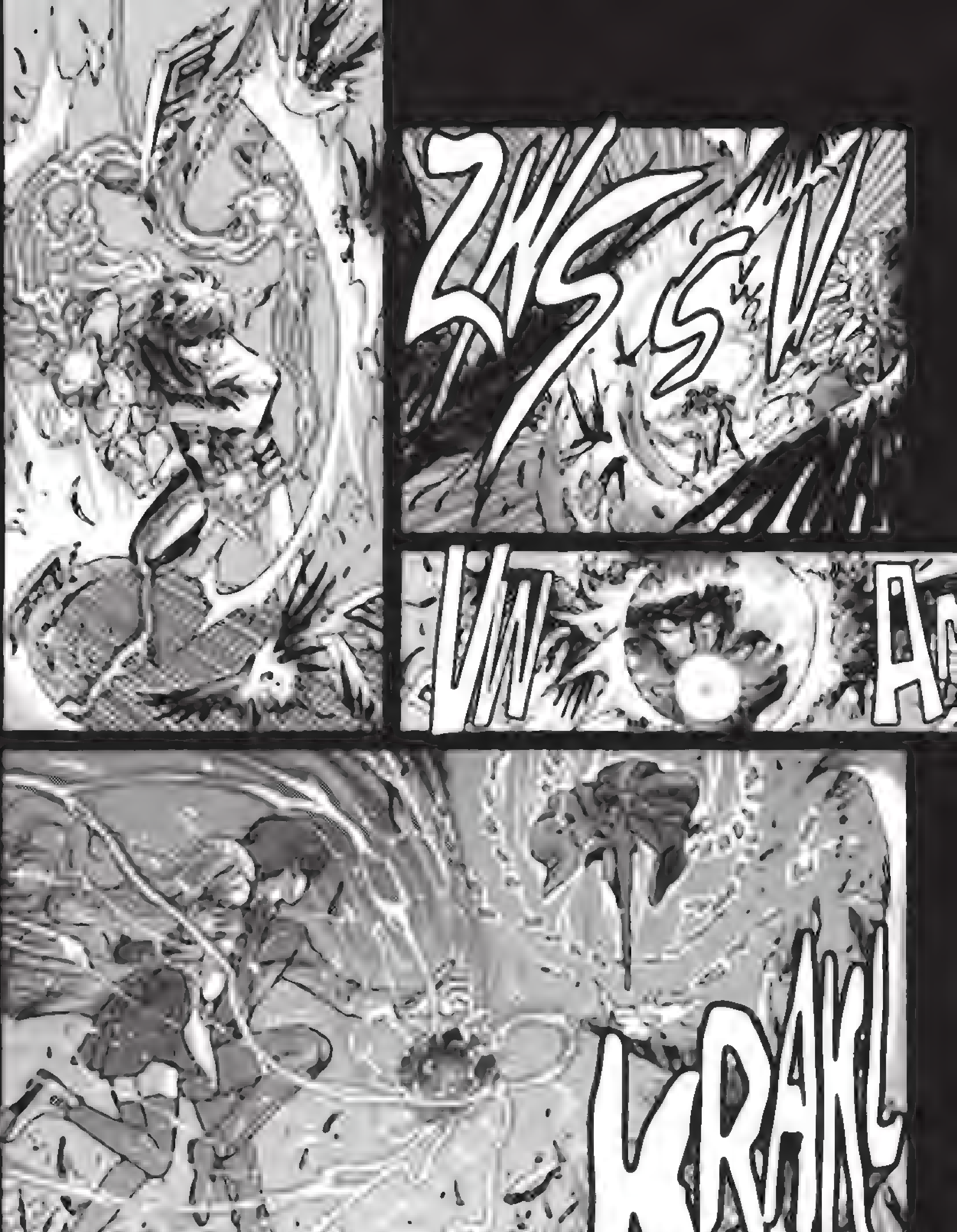

HMM...
HE'S...
...STRONG.

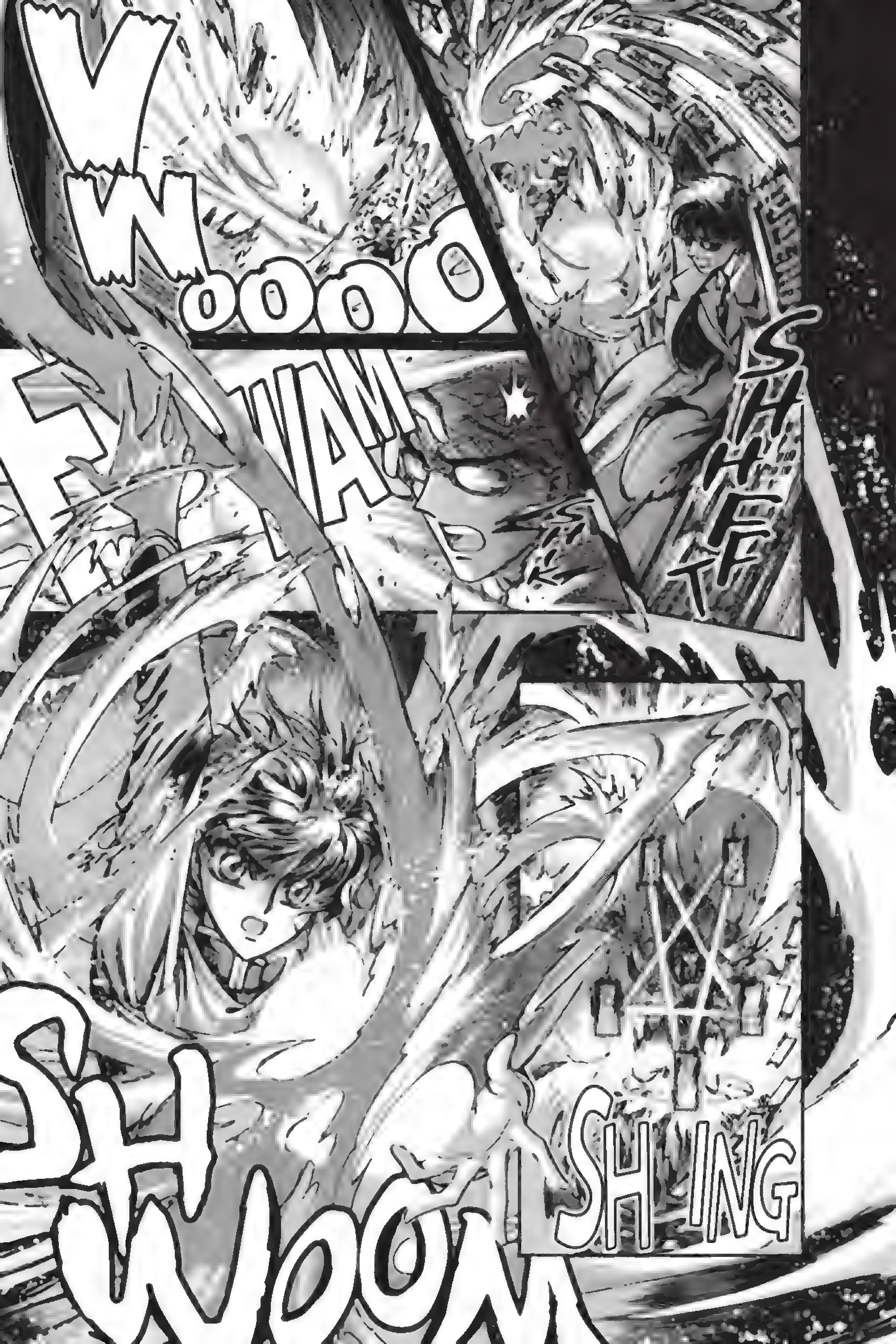

WE'RE WITHIN AN ILLUSION THAT I CREATED.
A PLACE WHERE I CAN RUN WILD, WITH NO ONE TO STOP ME.
EVEN IF IT'S NOT QUITE AT THE LEVEL OF THE KEKKAI CREATED BY THE DRAGONS OF HEAVEN.
I believe it is one of the Seven Angels.
HINOTO WAS RIGHT... I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE.

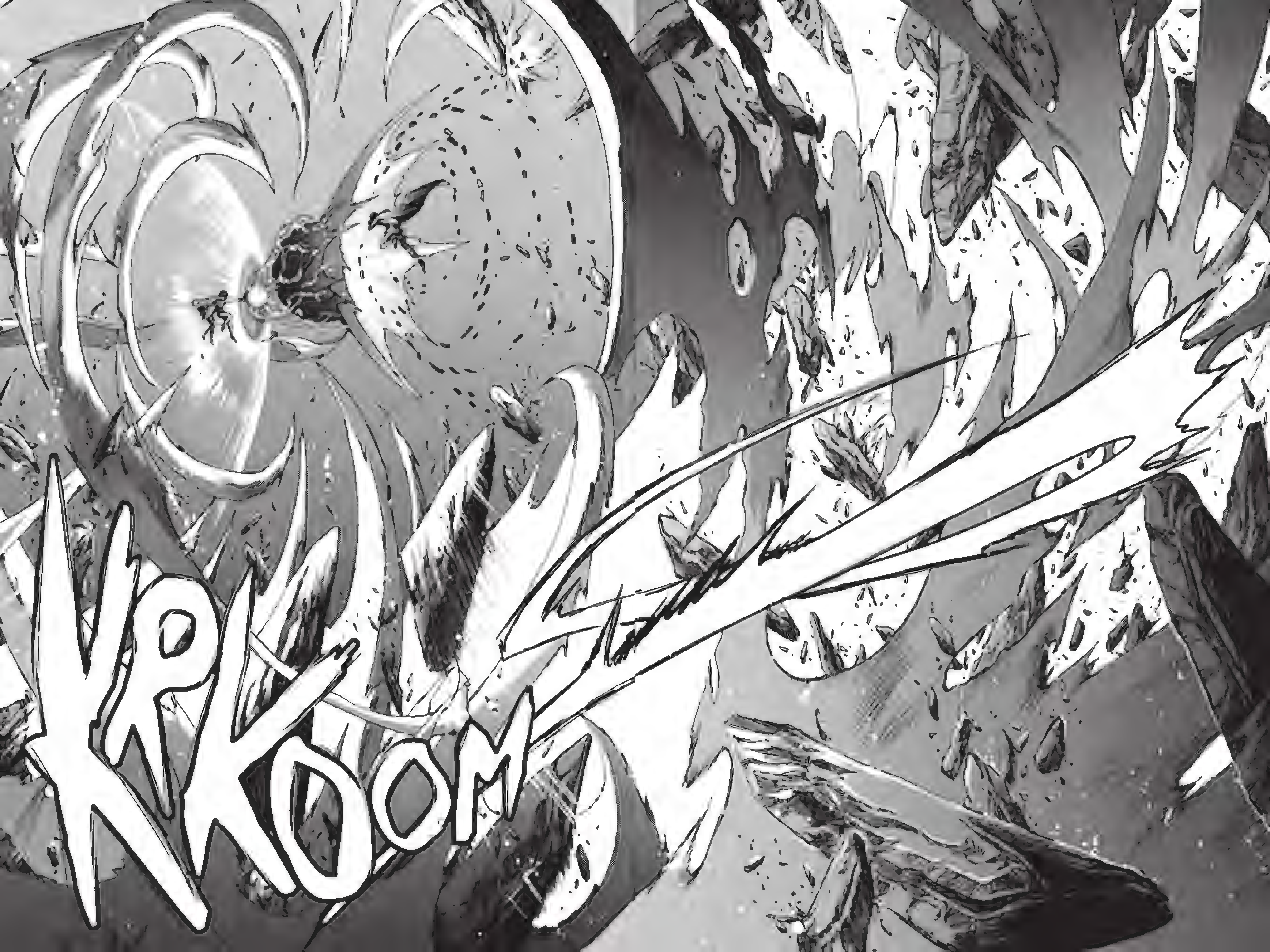

JUST HOLD ON TO ME.
GR
SHAHOO
DOOM
KRAK
!

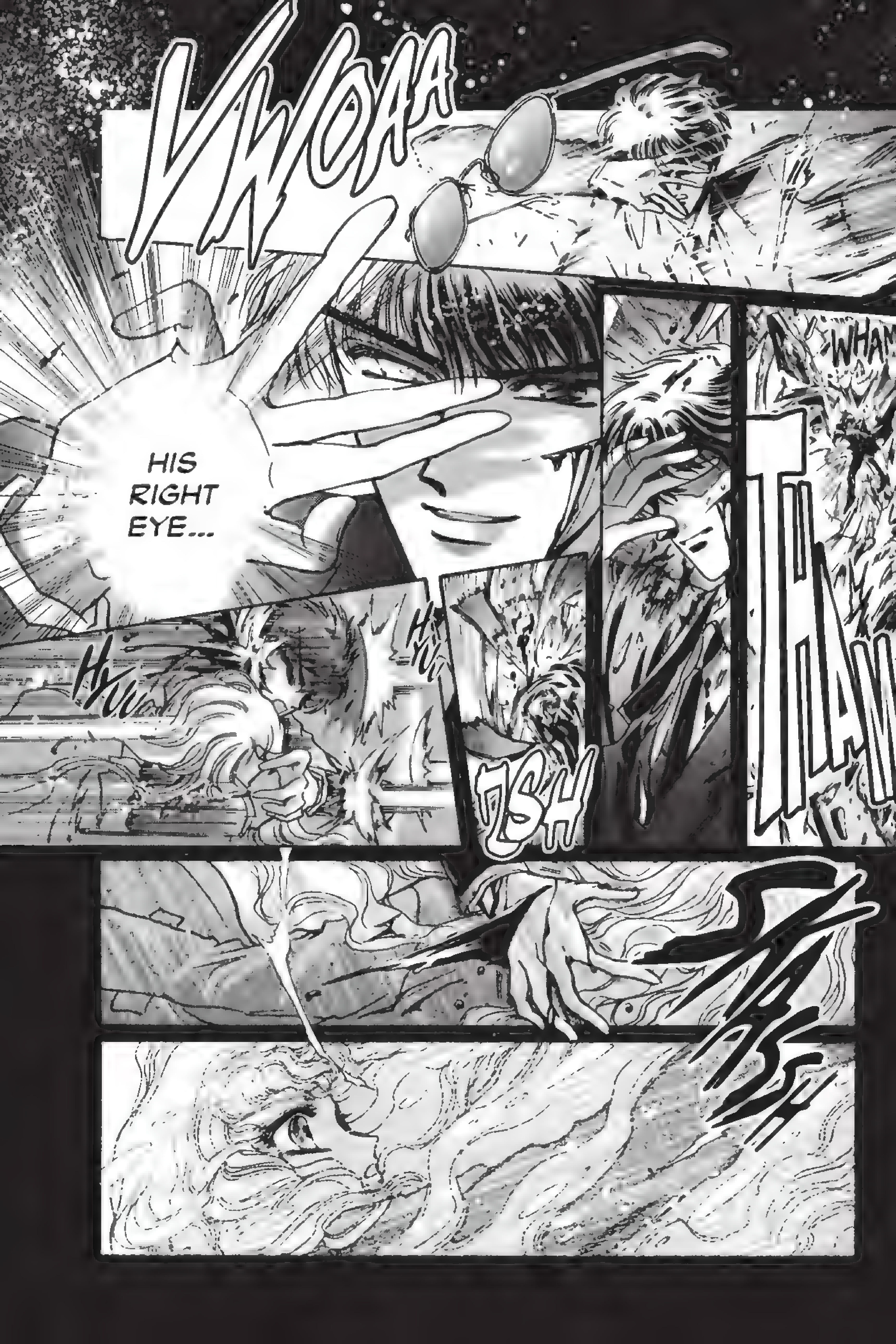

KRSH
I CAN'T BREAK IT?!
LAST TIME IT WAS A BIT TOO EASY FOR YOU TO BREAK.
SO THIS TIME I REINFORCED IT.
PERHAPS NOW YOU'LL PLAY WITH ME A LITTLE LONGER.

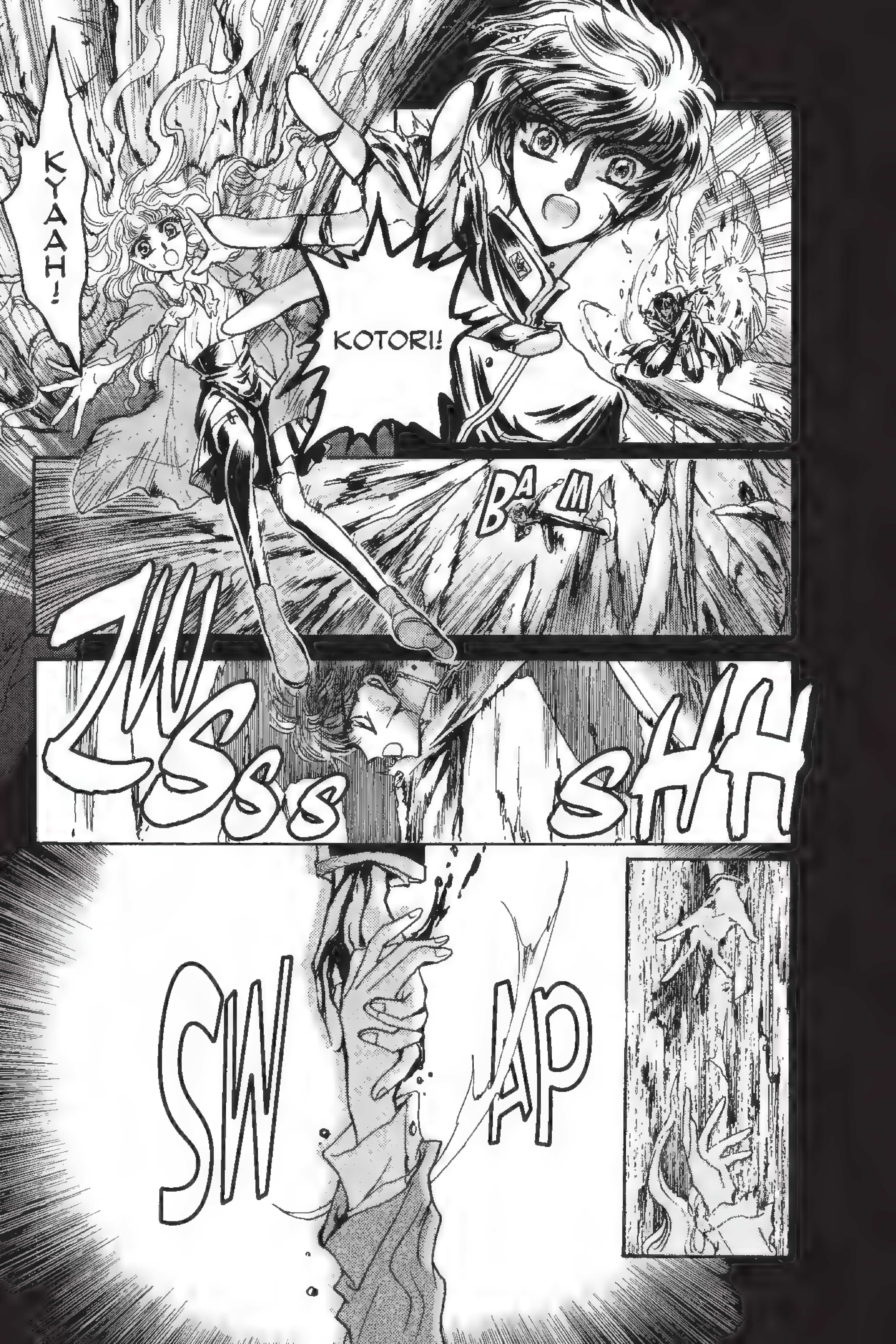

SHFFT
SHFFT
SHFFT
SH
CLAK...
Shi Ki Shuku Dou Shou
SHOOSSSH
Hi Kuu!

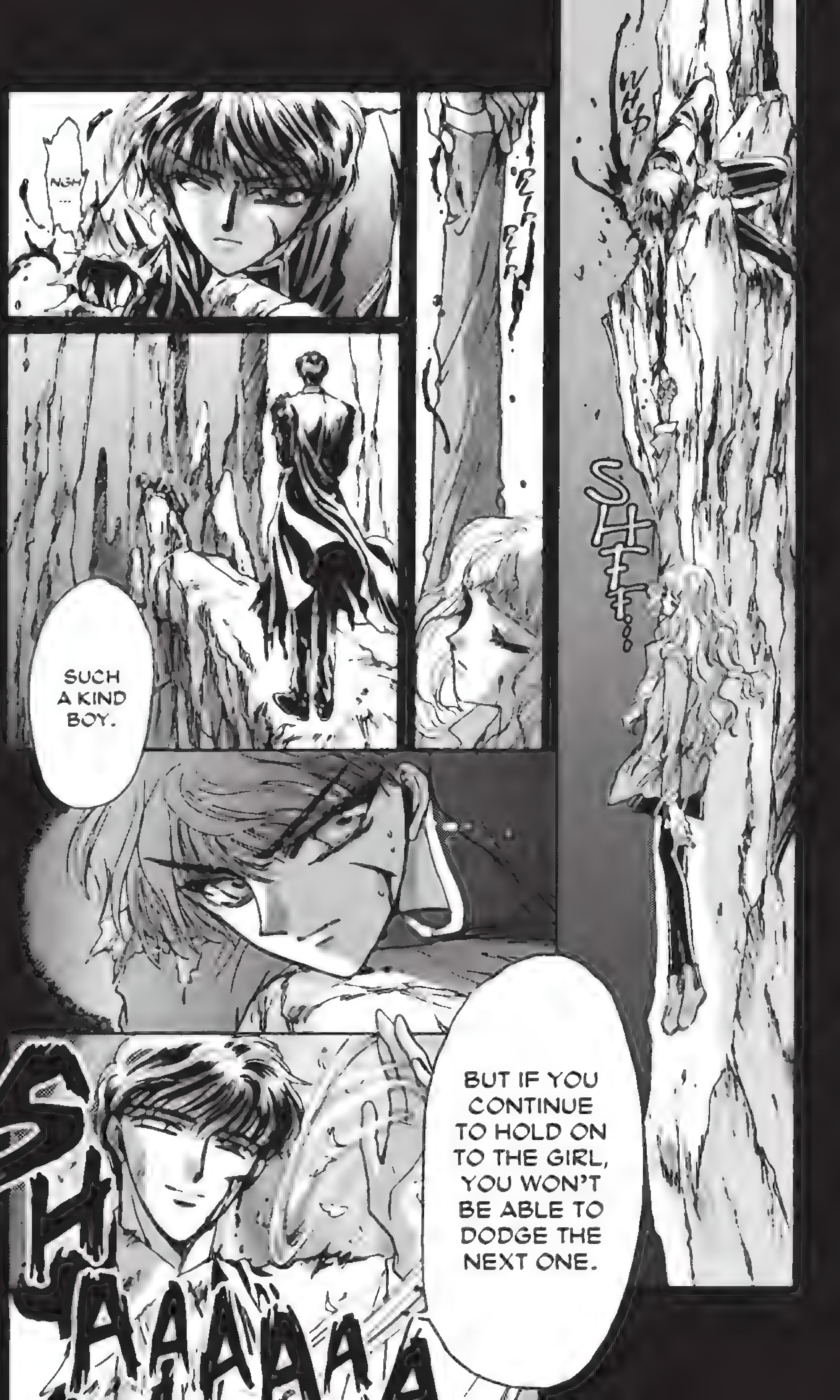

ZASSH
VM
AR
KRAKL

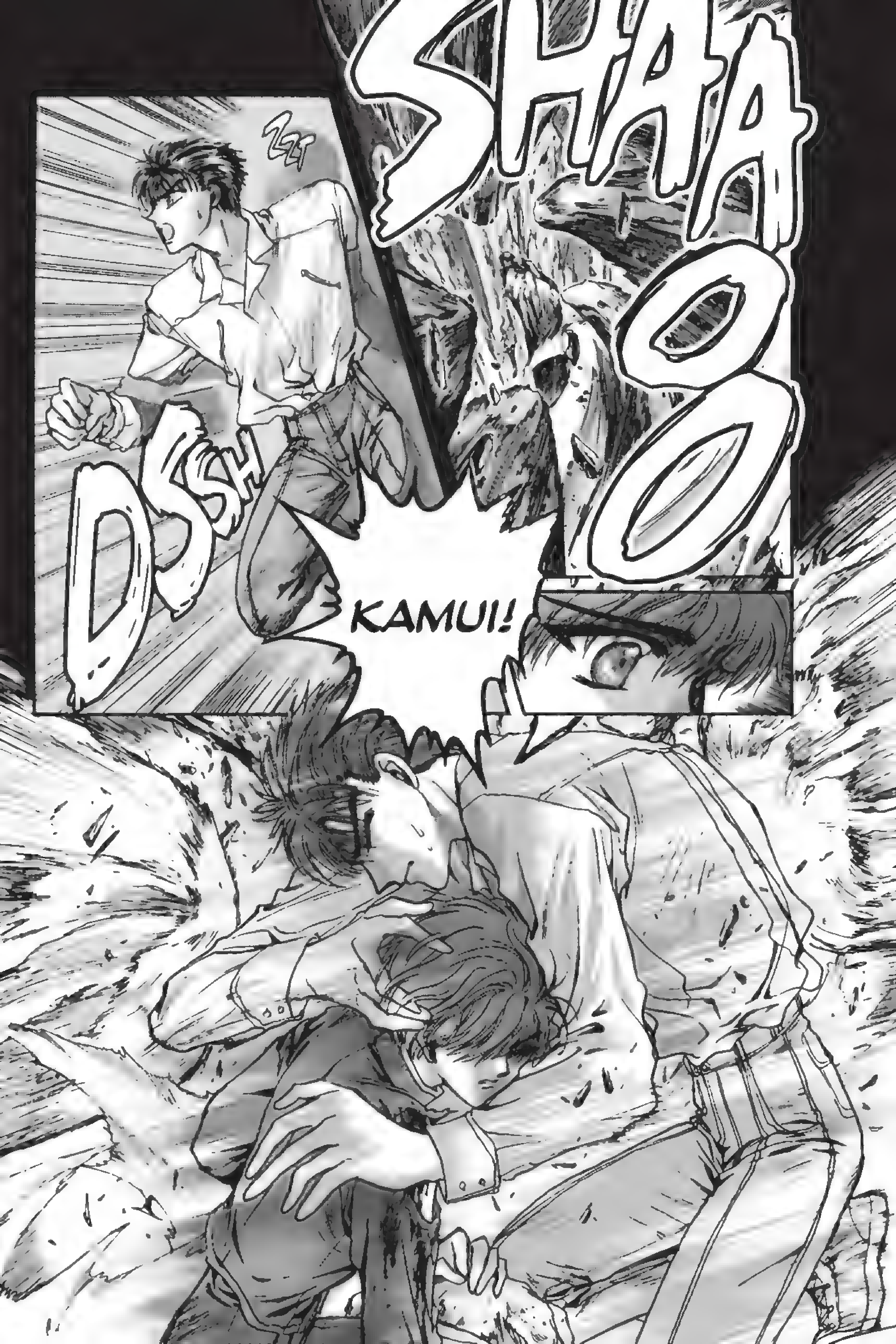

SHHFFT
WWOOOO
FWAM
SH
SHING
SHWOOM

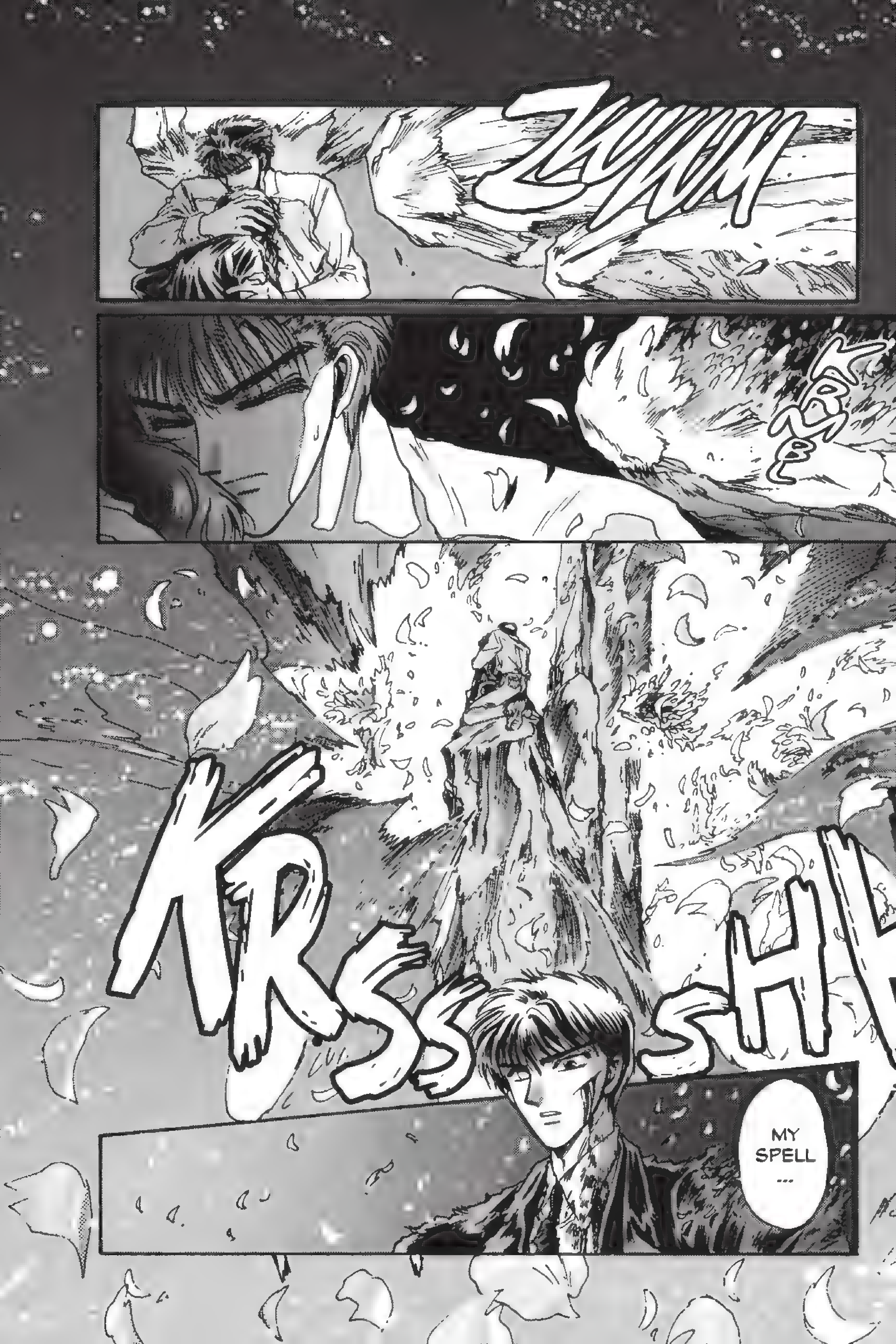

KRKOOM

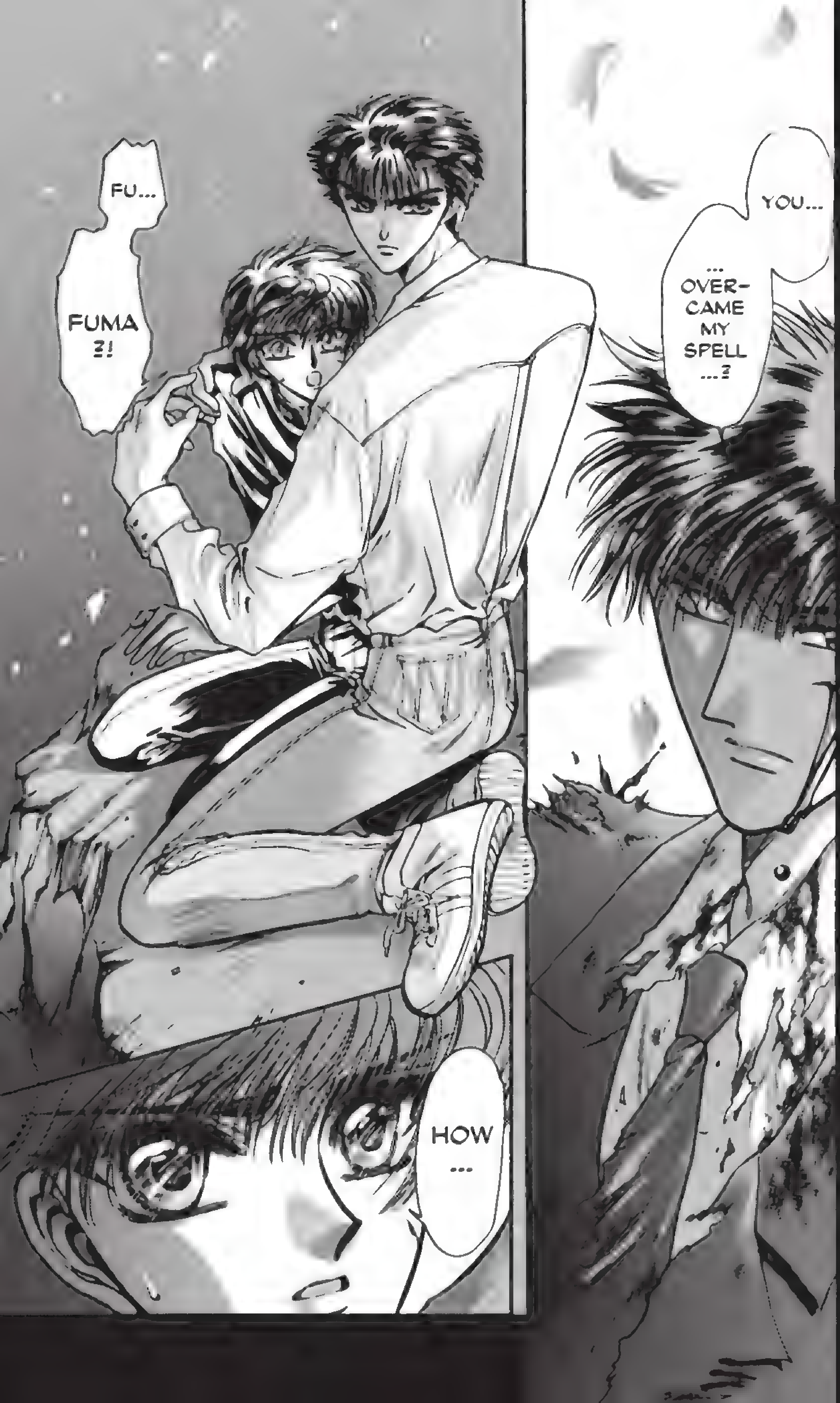

VWOAA
WHAM
THAM
TSH
HIS RIGHT EYE...
HYUU
HY
SHASH

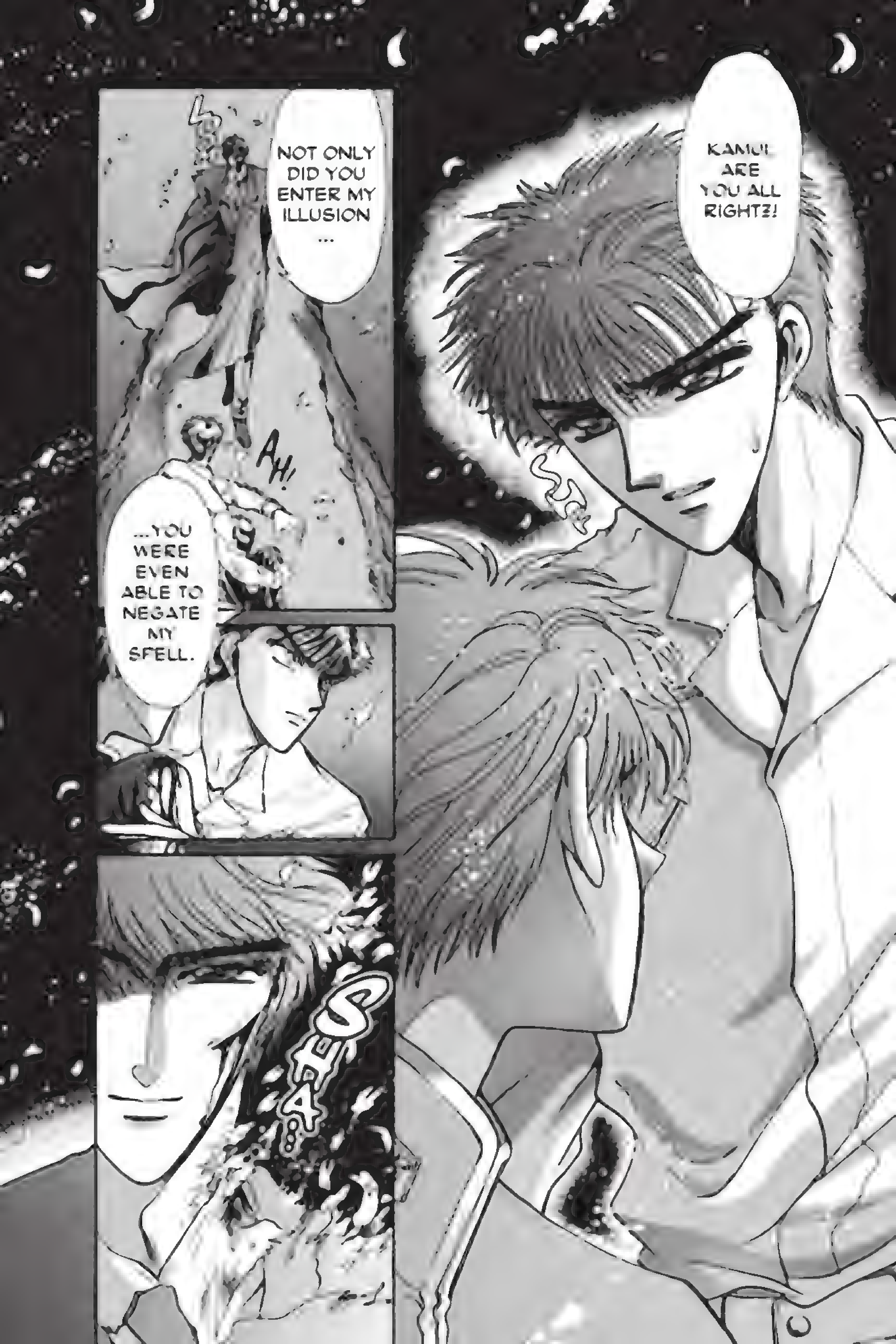

KOTORI!
KYAAH!
BAM
ZWSss SHH
SWAP


SHFFF...
NGH ...
SUCH A KIND BOY.
BUT IF YOU CONTINUE TO HOLD ON TO THE GIRL, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DODGE THE NEXT ONE.
SHAAAAAA

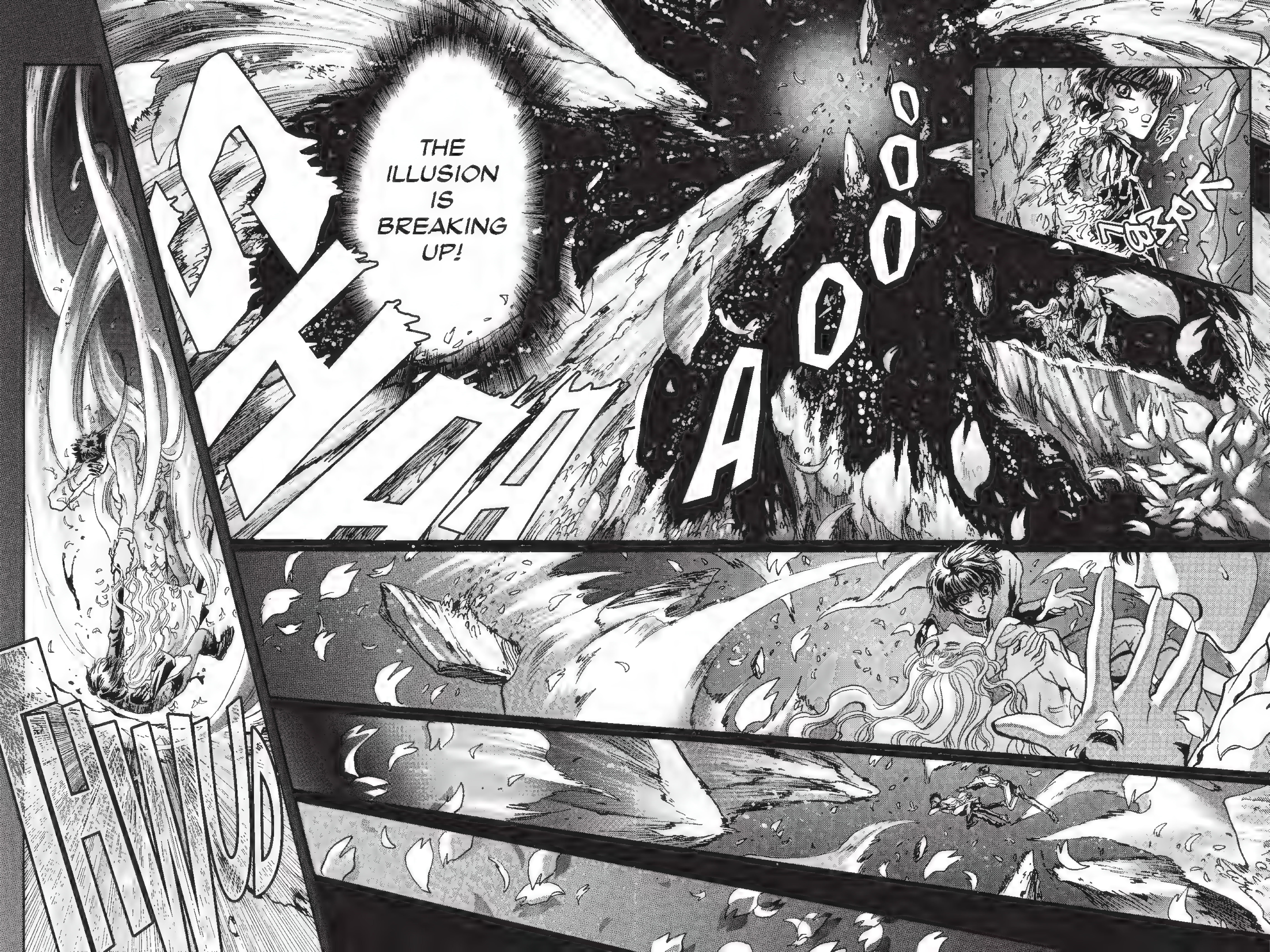

SHAAOO
ZZT
DSSH
KAMUI!

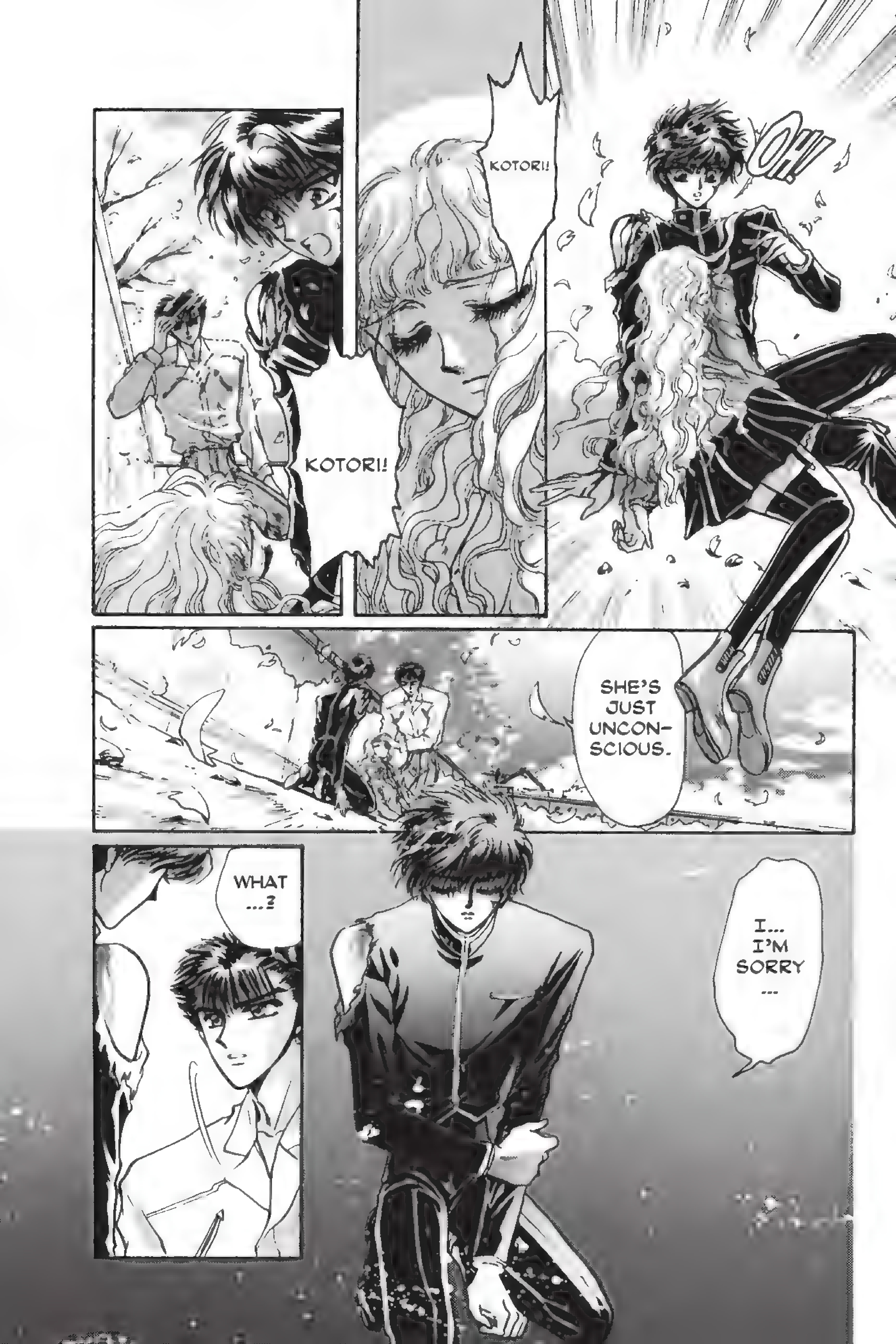

ZWUM
KRMBL
KRSSSHH
MY SPELL ...

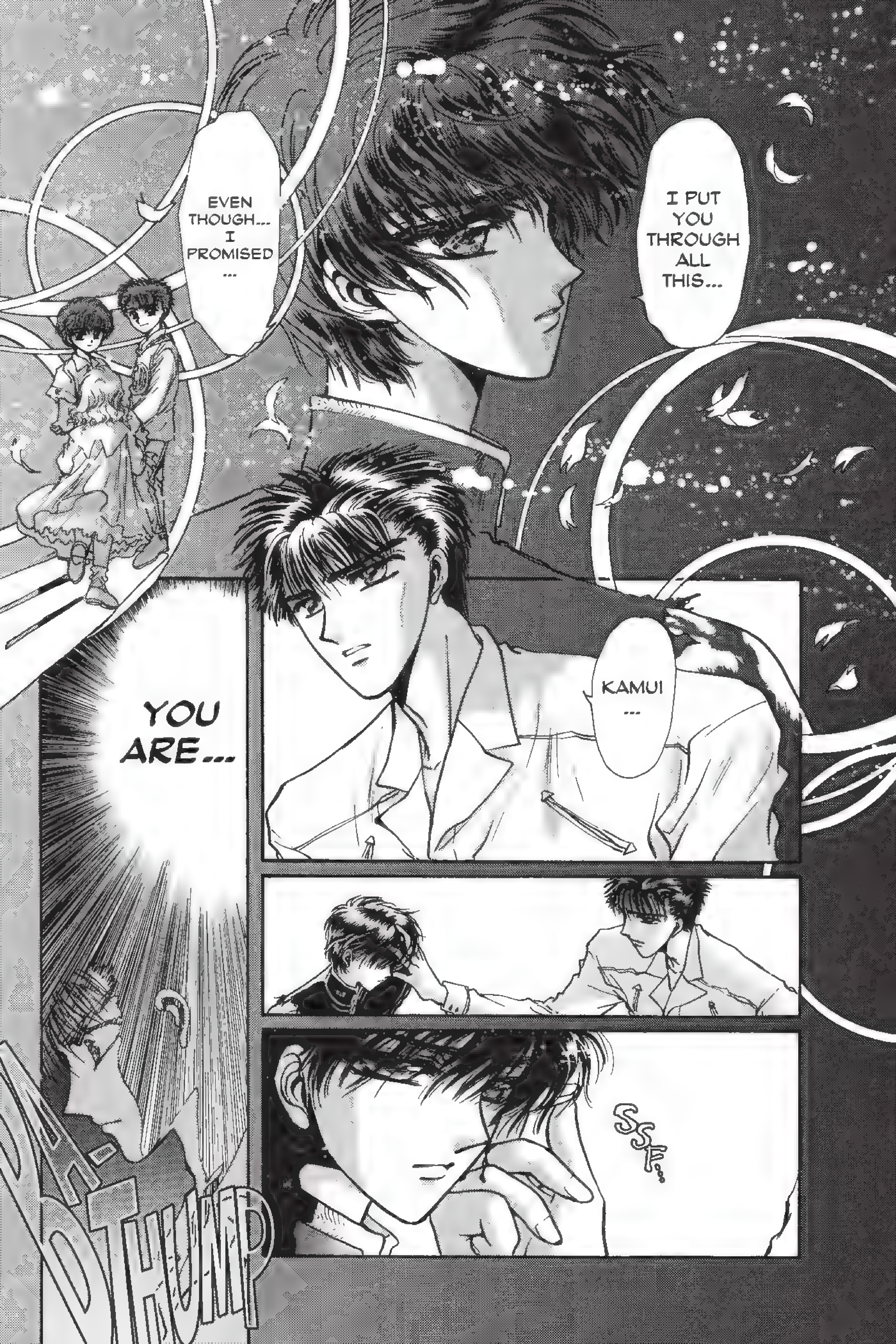

YOU...
...OVERCAME MY SPELL...?
FU...
FUMA?!
HOW...

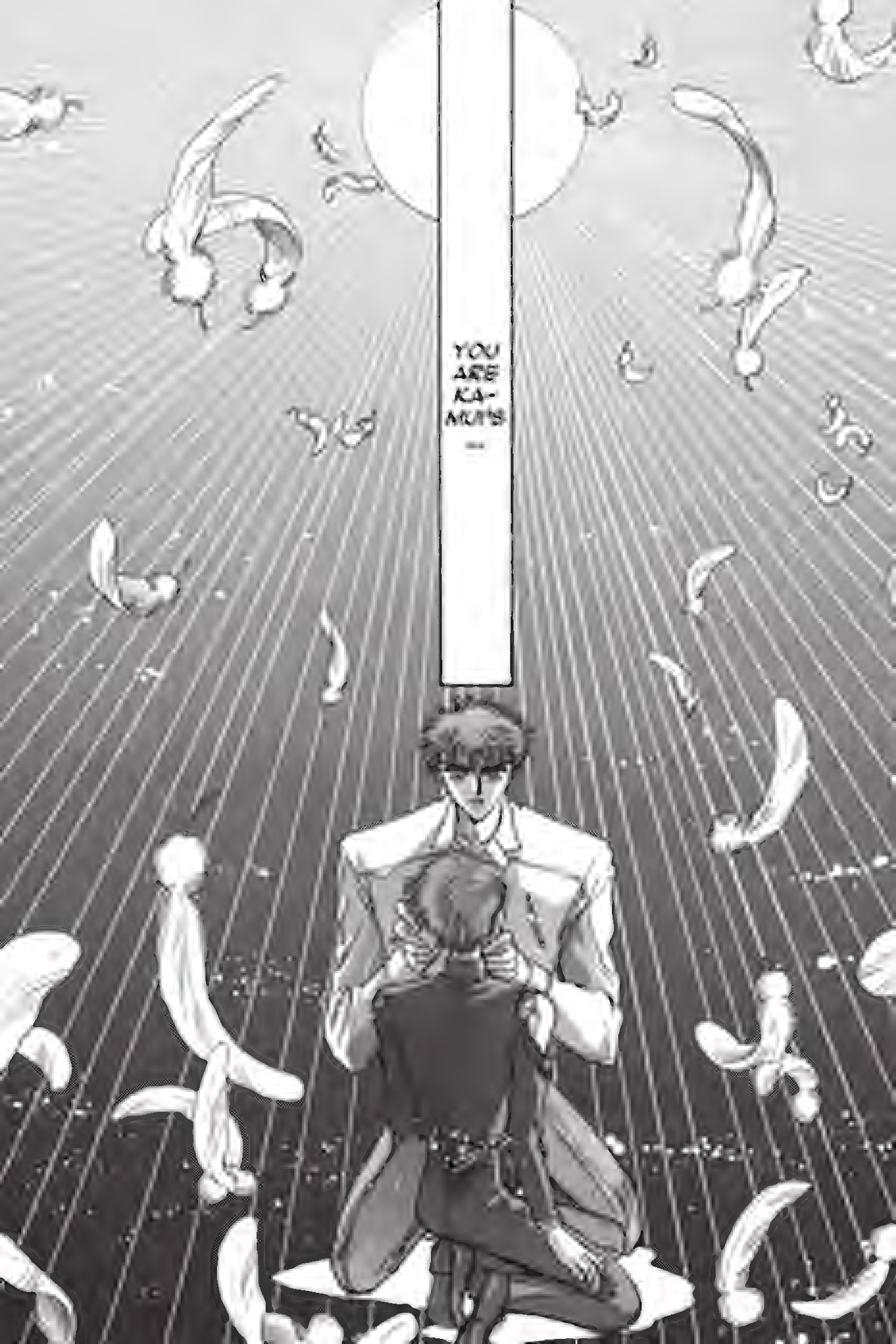

KAMUI ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
NOT ONLY DID YOU ENTER MY ILLUSION ...
AH!
...YOU WERE EVEN ABLE TO NEGATE MY SPELL.
SHA...

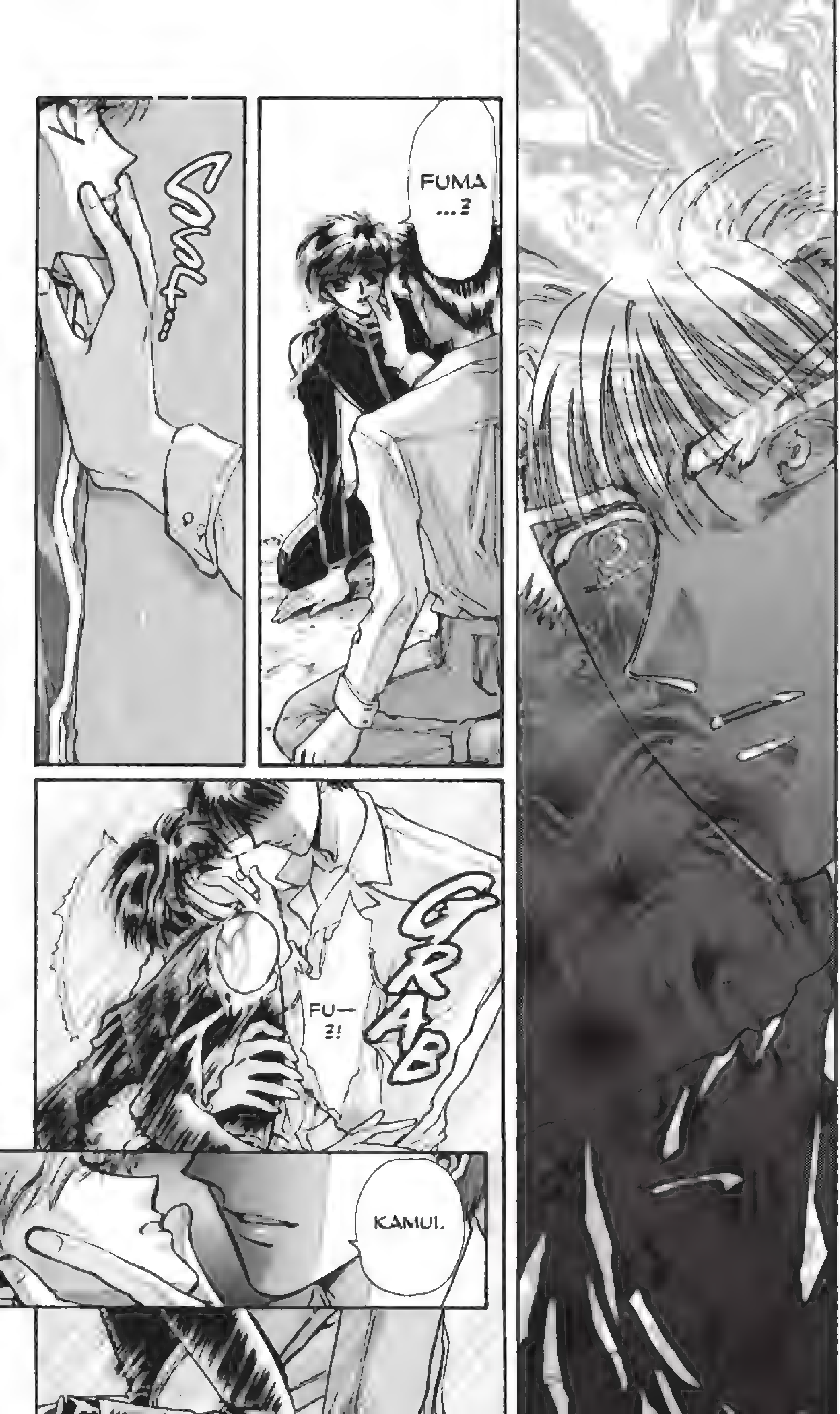
SHHAAAA

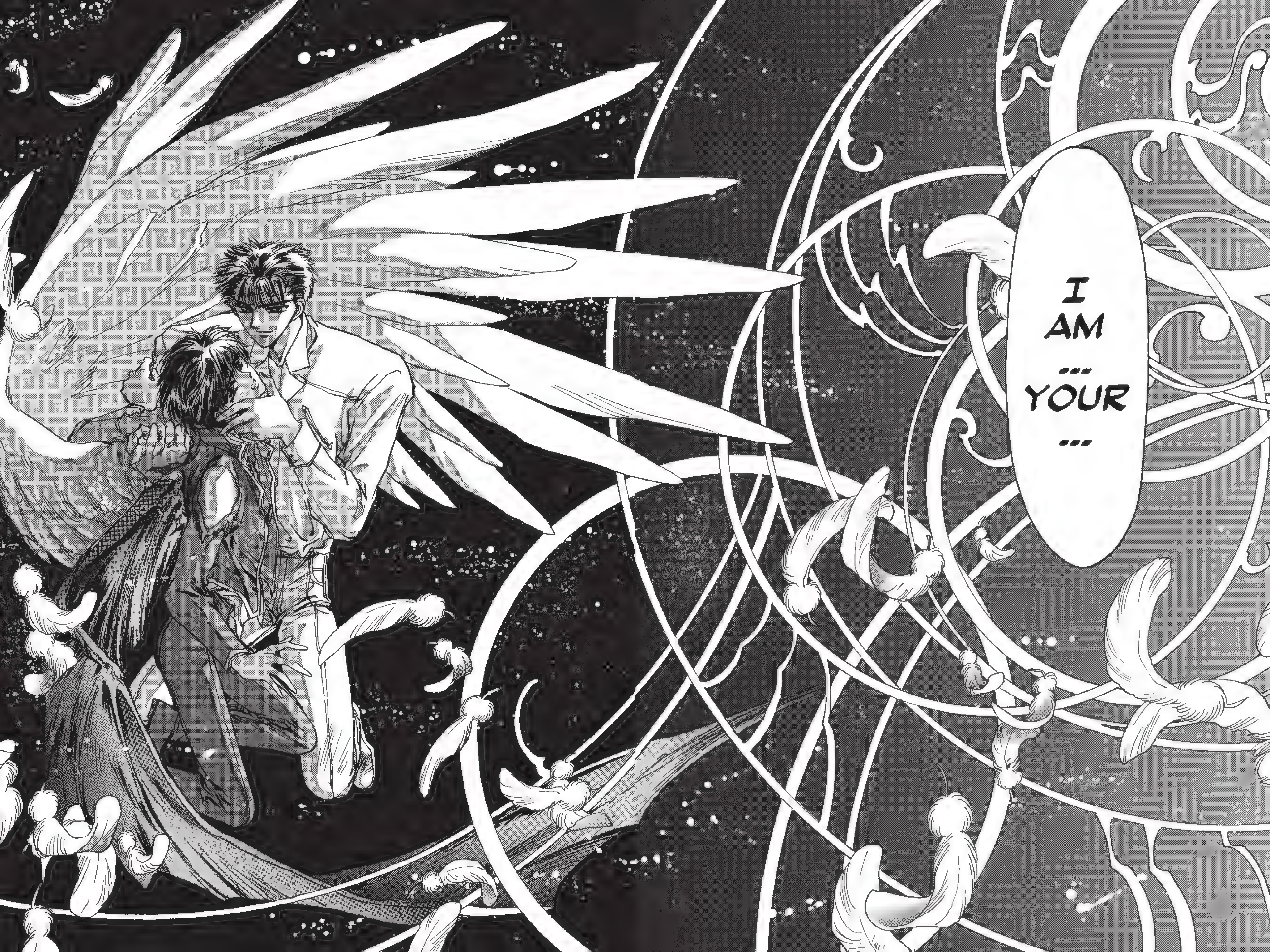

KRBL
SHAAAOOOOO
THE ILLUSION IS BREAKING UP!
THWUD

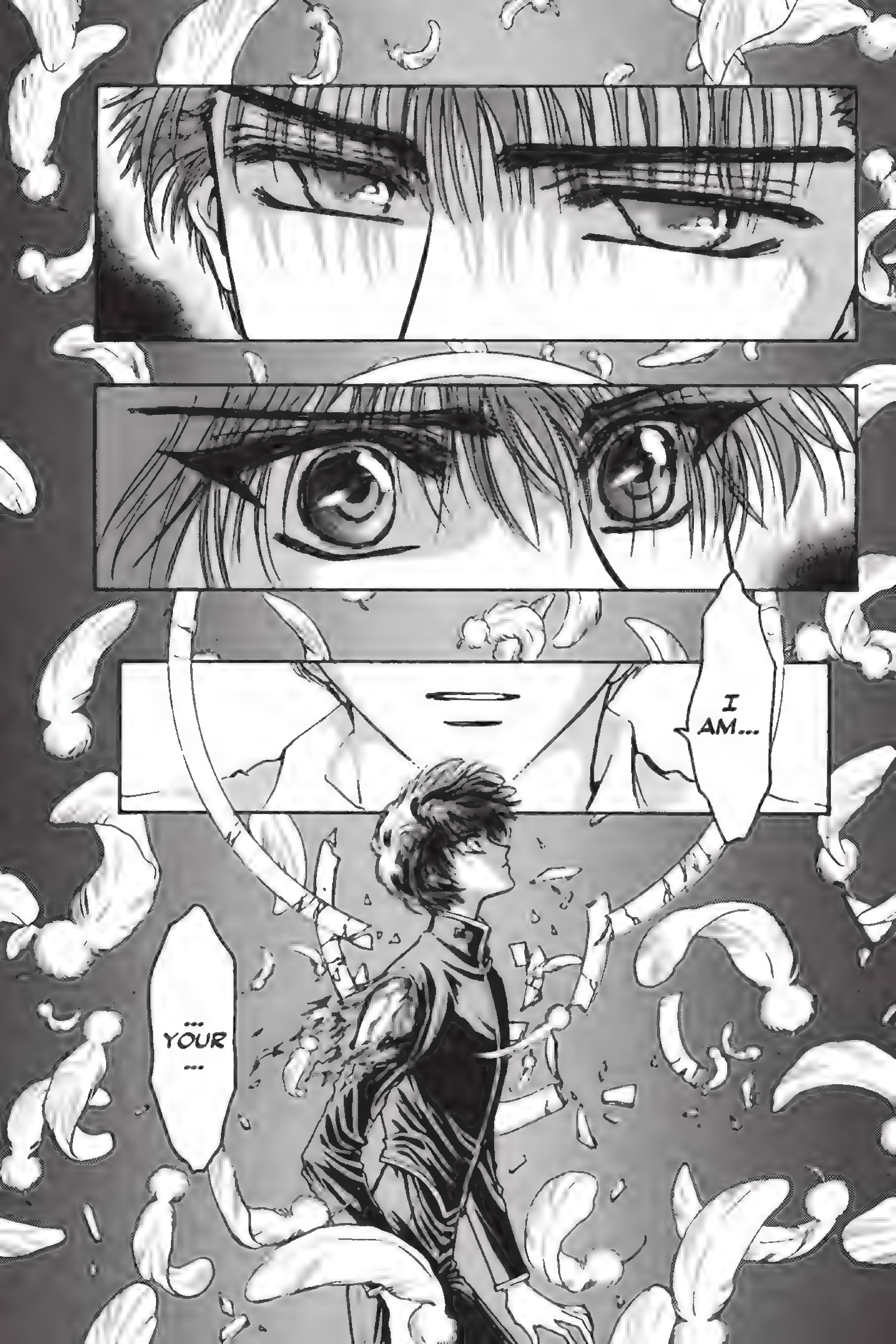

OH!!
KOTORI!!
KOTORI!!
SHE'S JUST UNCONSCIOUS.
I... I'M SORRY ...
WHAT ...?

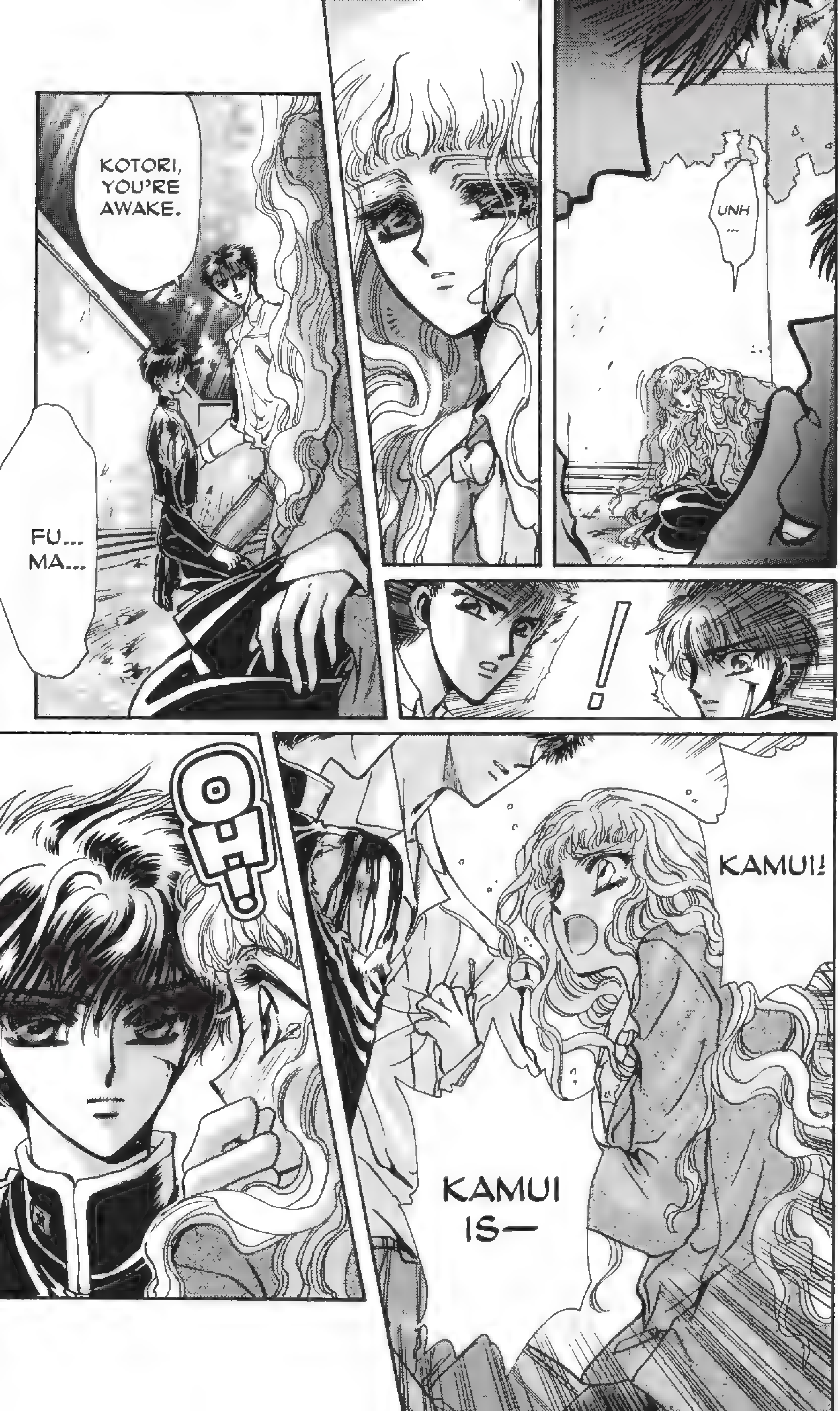

I PUT YOU THROUGH ALL THIS...
EVEN THOUGH... I PROMISED...
KAMUI...
YOU ARE...
BA-DTHUMP
SSF...

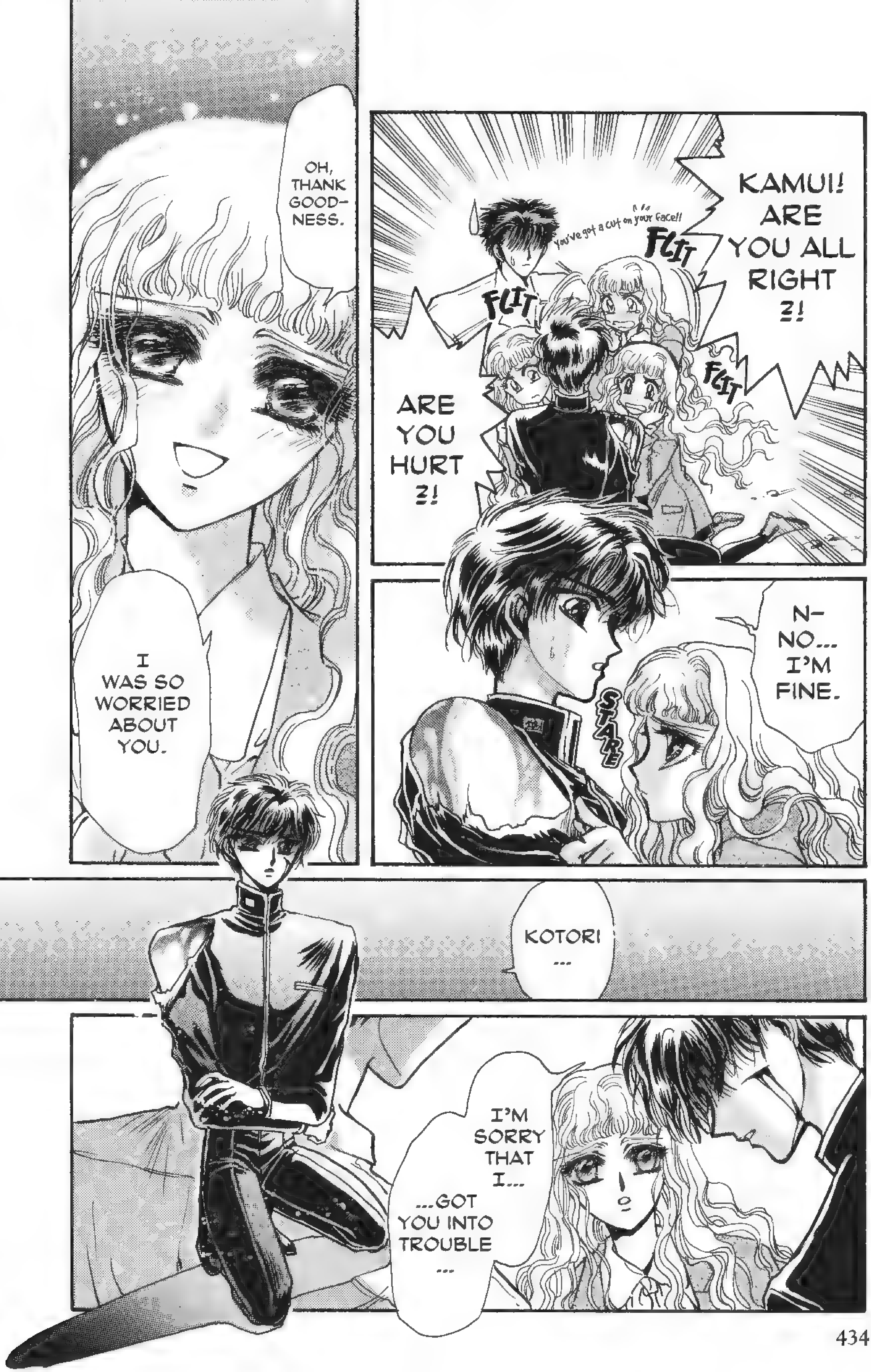

YOU ARE KAMUI'S ...

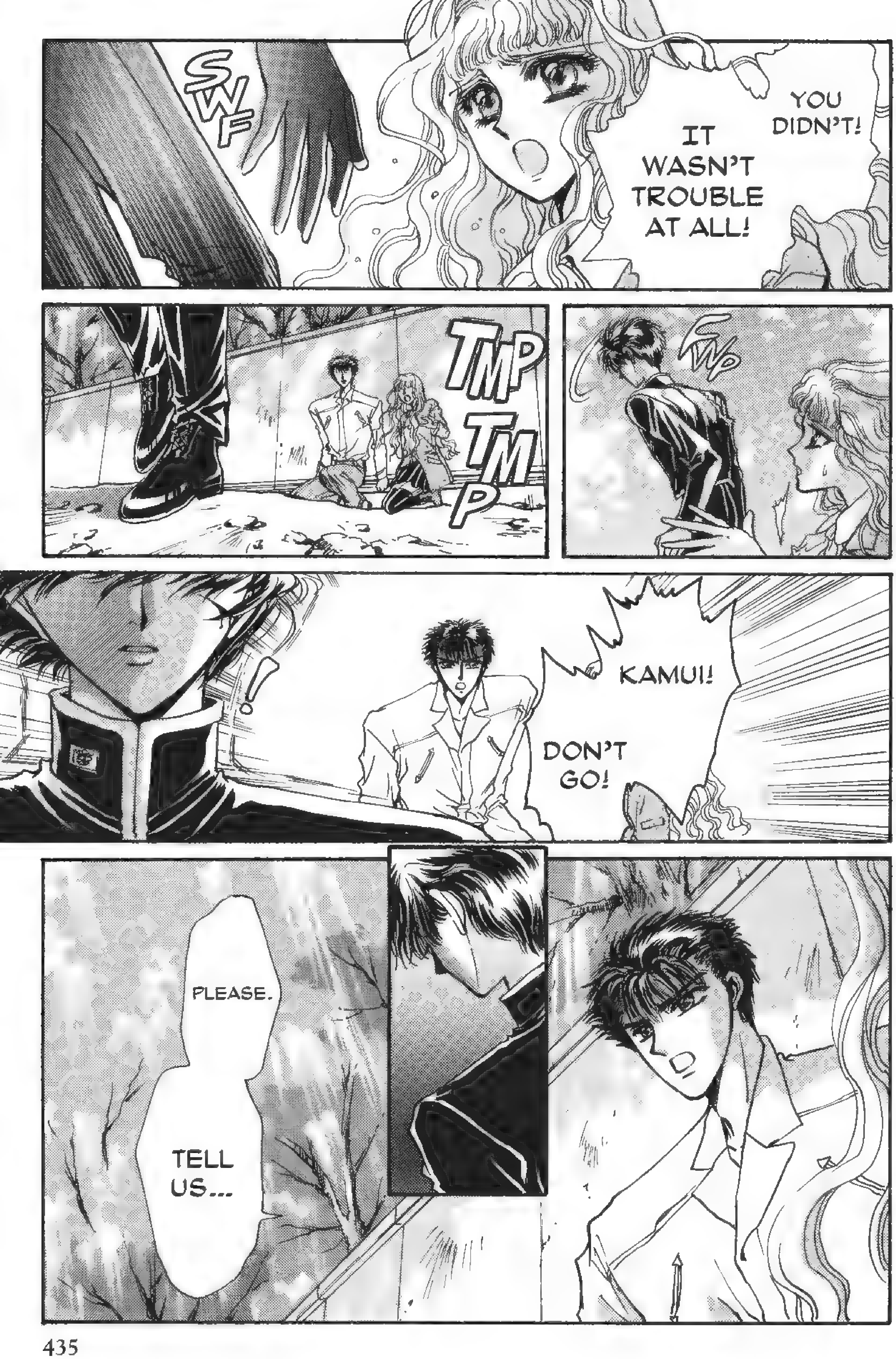

FUMA ...?
LICK...
FU— ?!
GRAB
KAMUI.

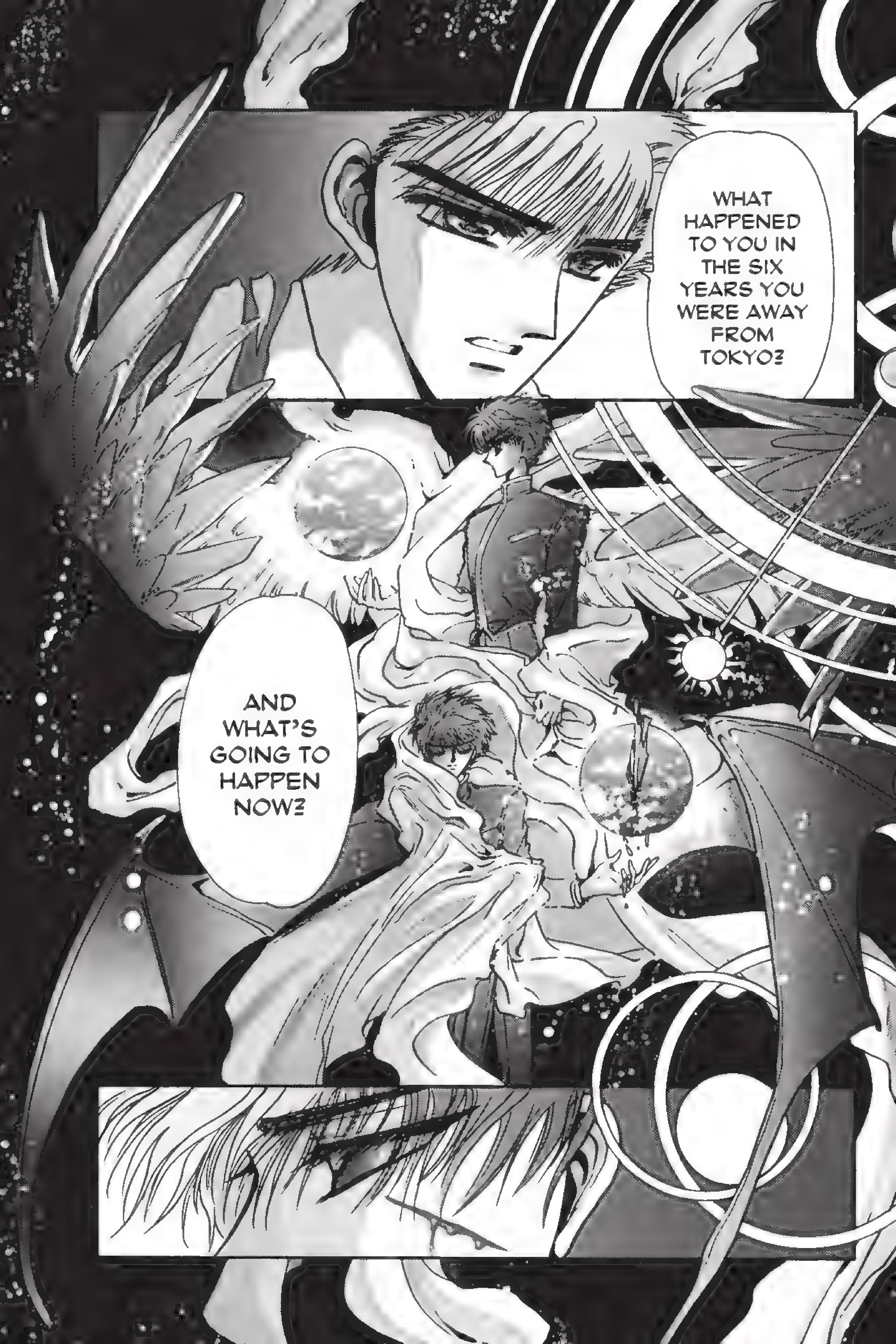

I AM ... YOUR ...

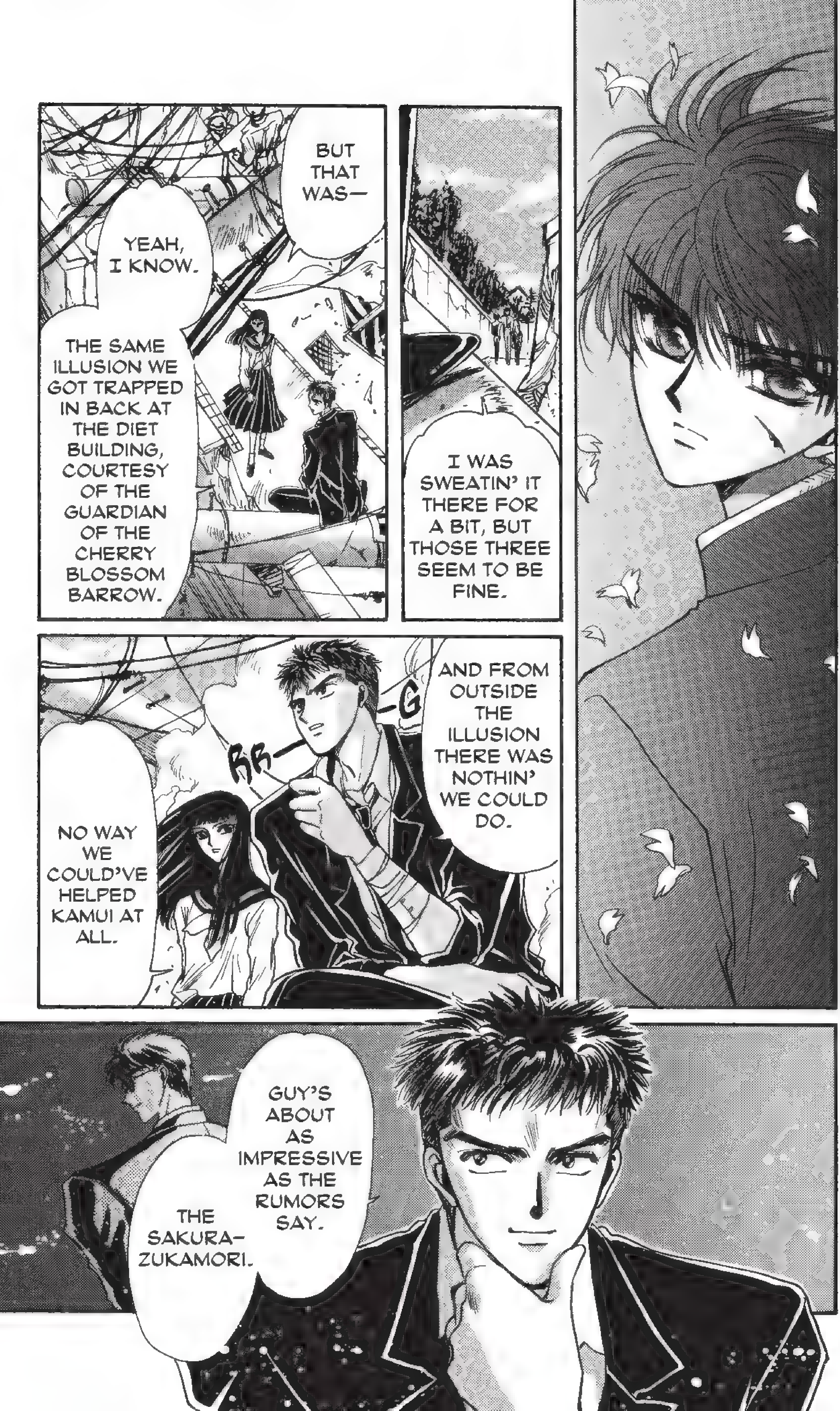

I AM...
...YOUR...

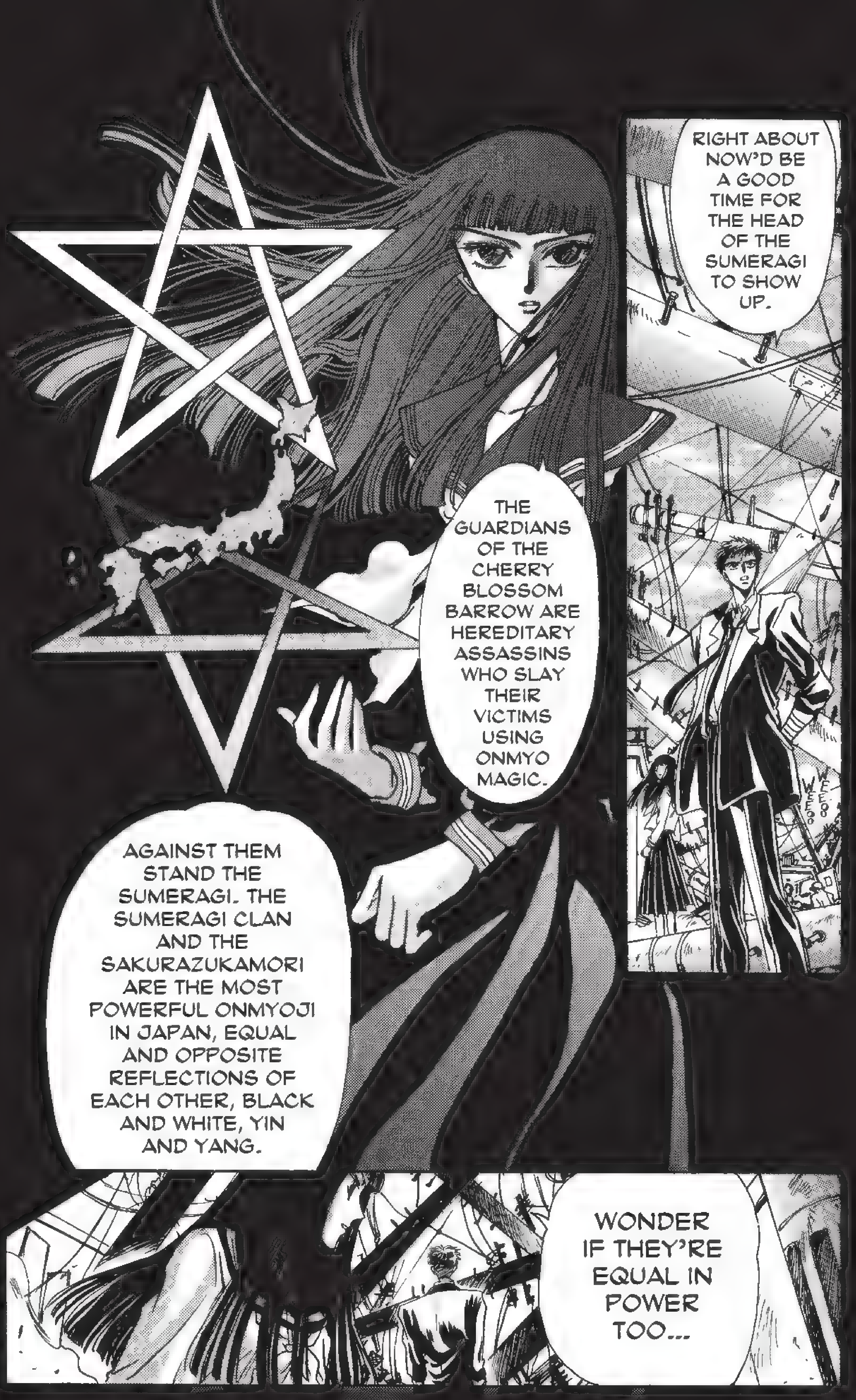

UNH...
KOTORI, YOU'RE AWAKE.
FU... MA...
!
KAMUI!
KAMUI IS—

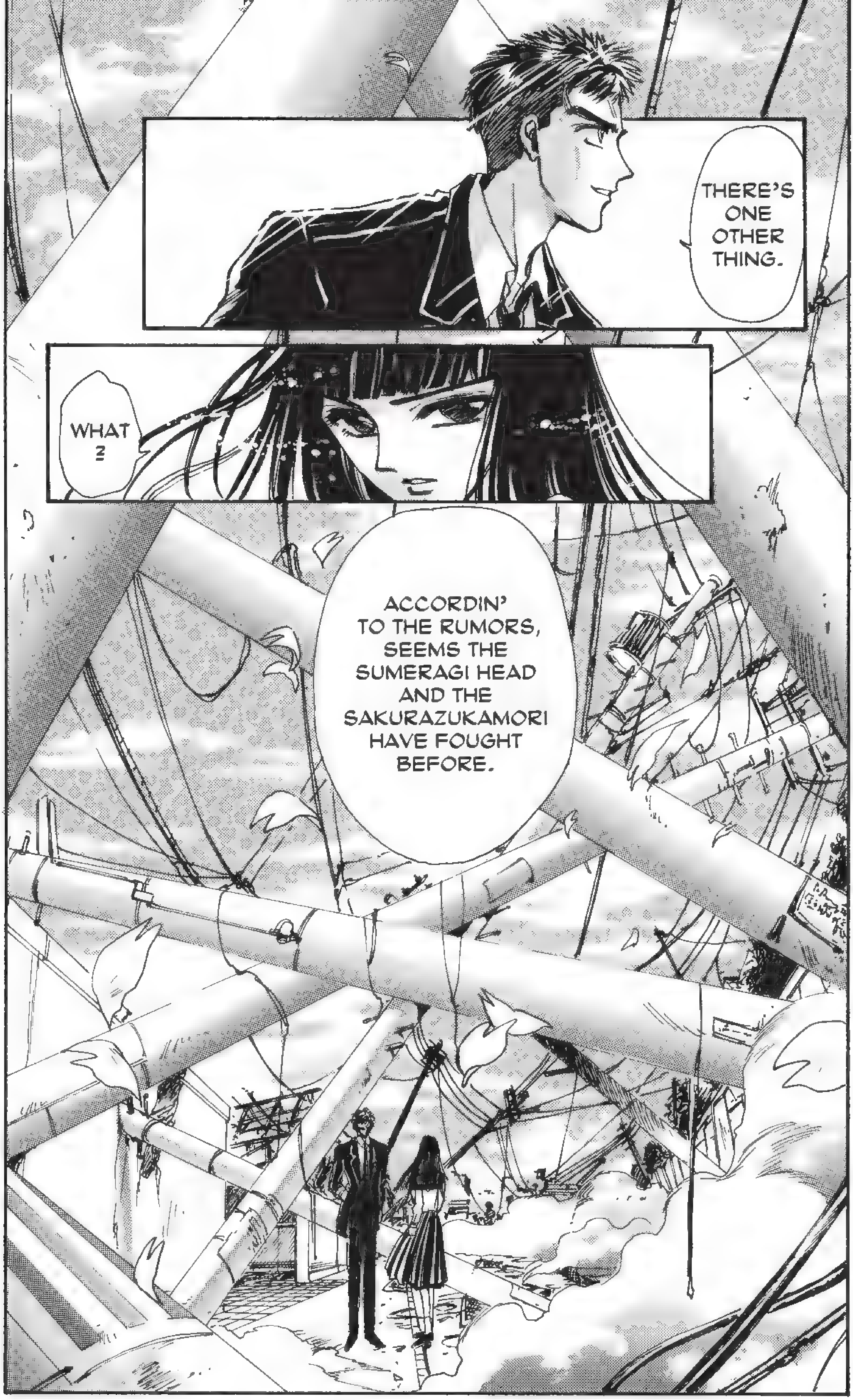

KAMUI! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
You've got a cut on your face!!
FLIT
FLIT
FLIT
ARE YOU HURT?!
N-NO... I'M FINE.
STARE
OH, THANK GOODNESS.
I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
KOTORI...
I'M SORRY THAT I...
...GOT YOU INTO TROUBLE...

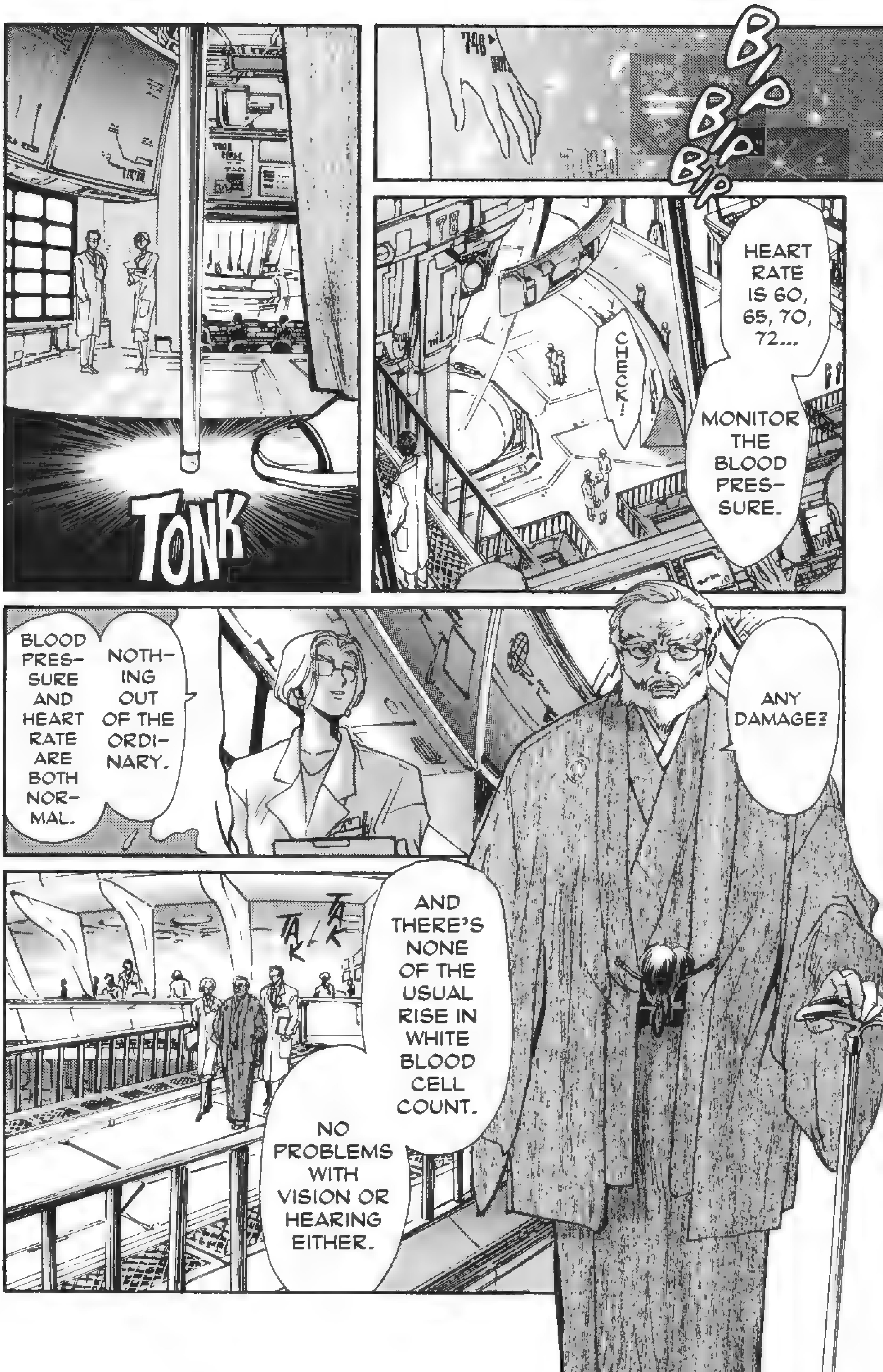

YOU DIDN'T!
IT WASN'T TROUBLE AT ALL!
SWF
FWP
TMP TMP
KAMUI!
DON'T GO!
PLEASE.
TELL US...

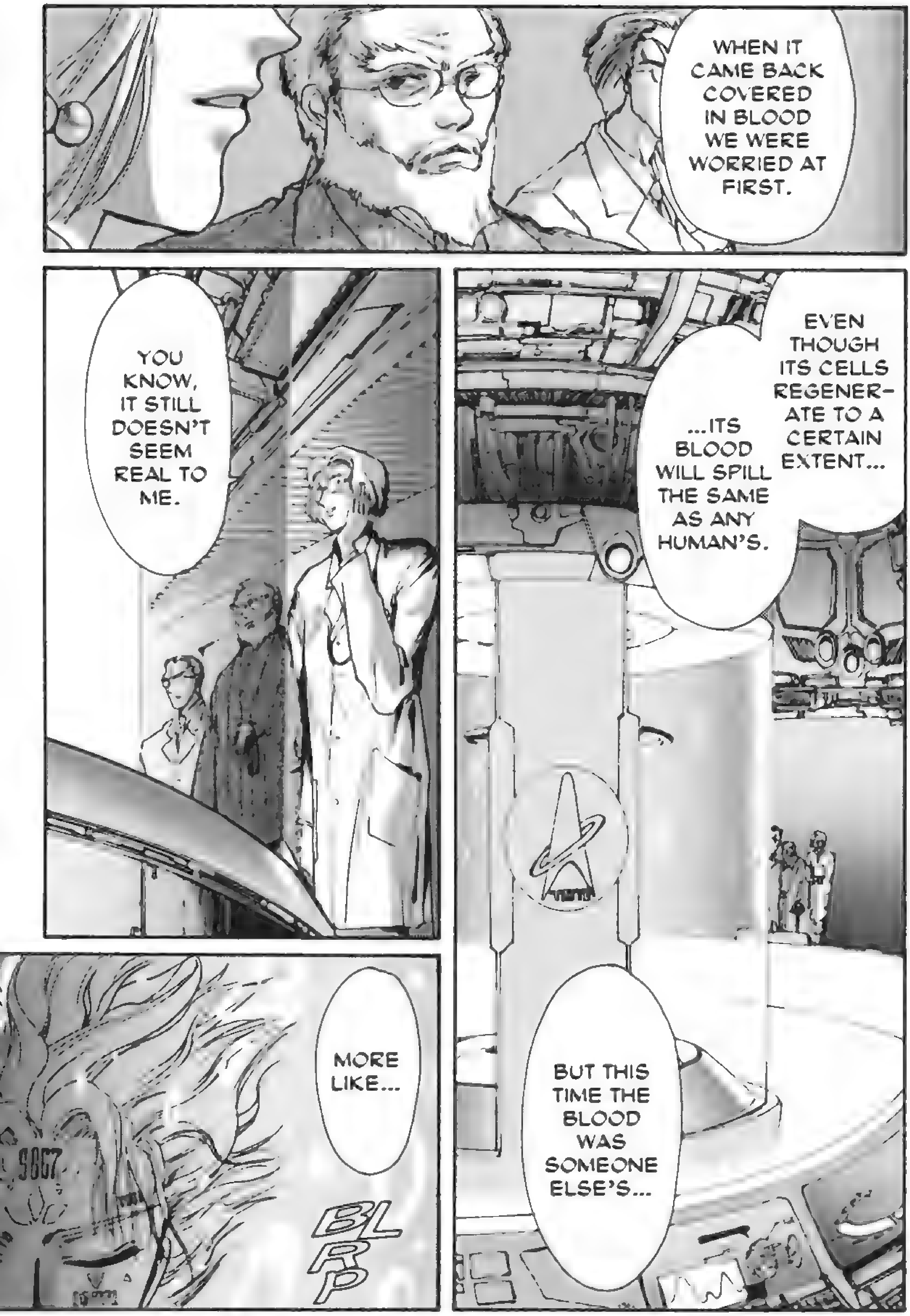

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU IN THE SIX YEARS YOU WERE AWAY FROM TOKYO?
AND WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NOW?

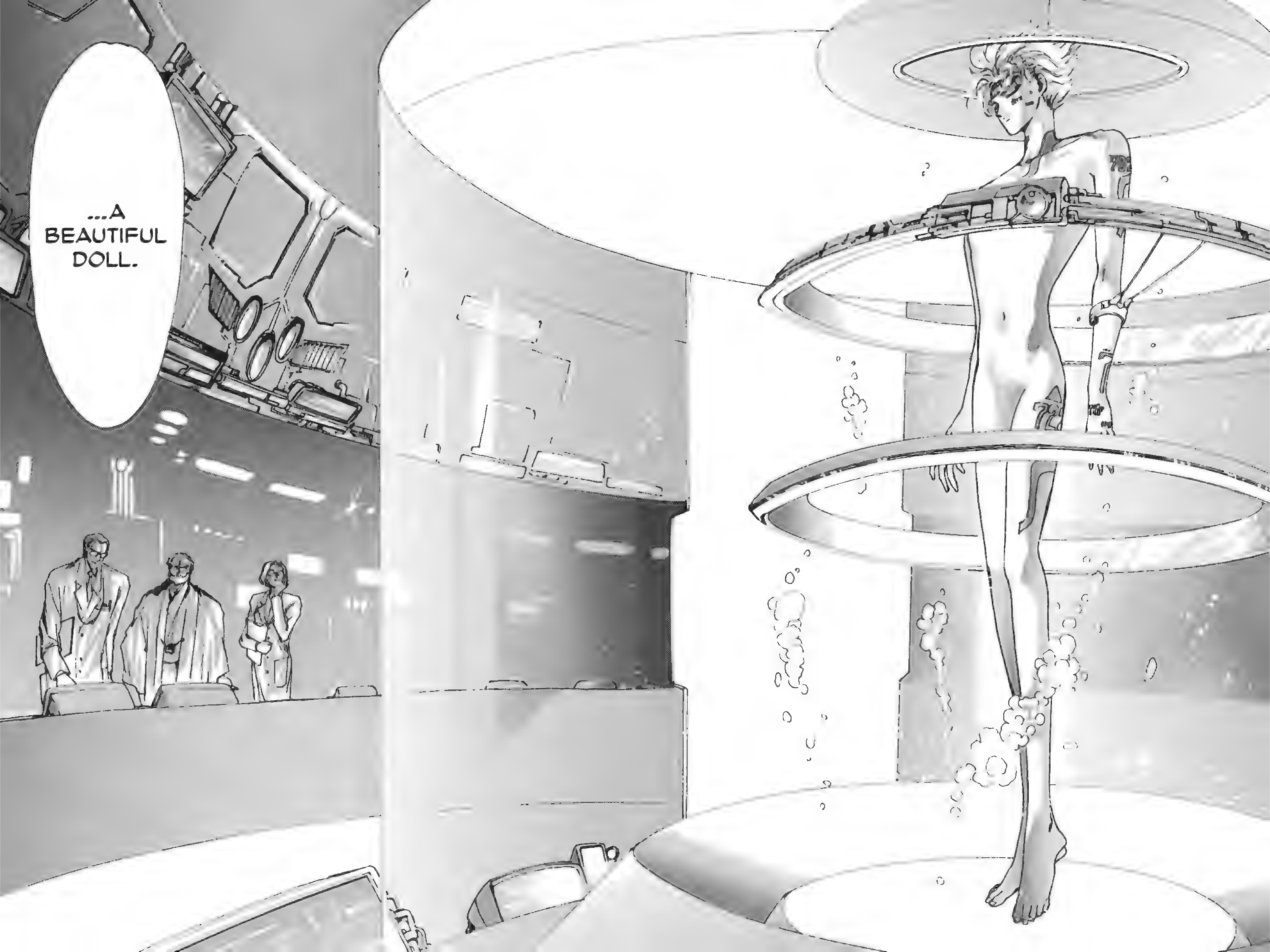

I WAS SWEATIN' IT THERE FOR A BIT, BUT THOSE THREE SEEM TO BE FINE.
BUT THAT WAS—
YEAH, I KNOW.
THE SAME ILLUSION WE GOT TRAPPED IN BACK AT THE DIET BUILDING, COURTESY OF THE GUARDIAN OF THE CHERRY BLOSSOM BARROW.
AND FROM OUTSIDE THE ILLUSION THERE WAS NOTHIN' WE COULD DO.
RR—G
NO WAY WE COULD'VE HELPED KAMUI AT ALL.
GUY'S ABOUT AS IMPRESSIVE AS THE RUMORS SAY.
THE SAKURA-ZUKAMORI.

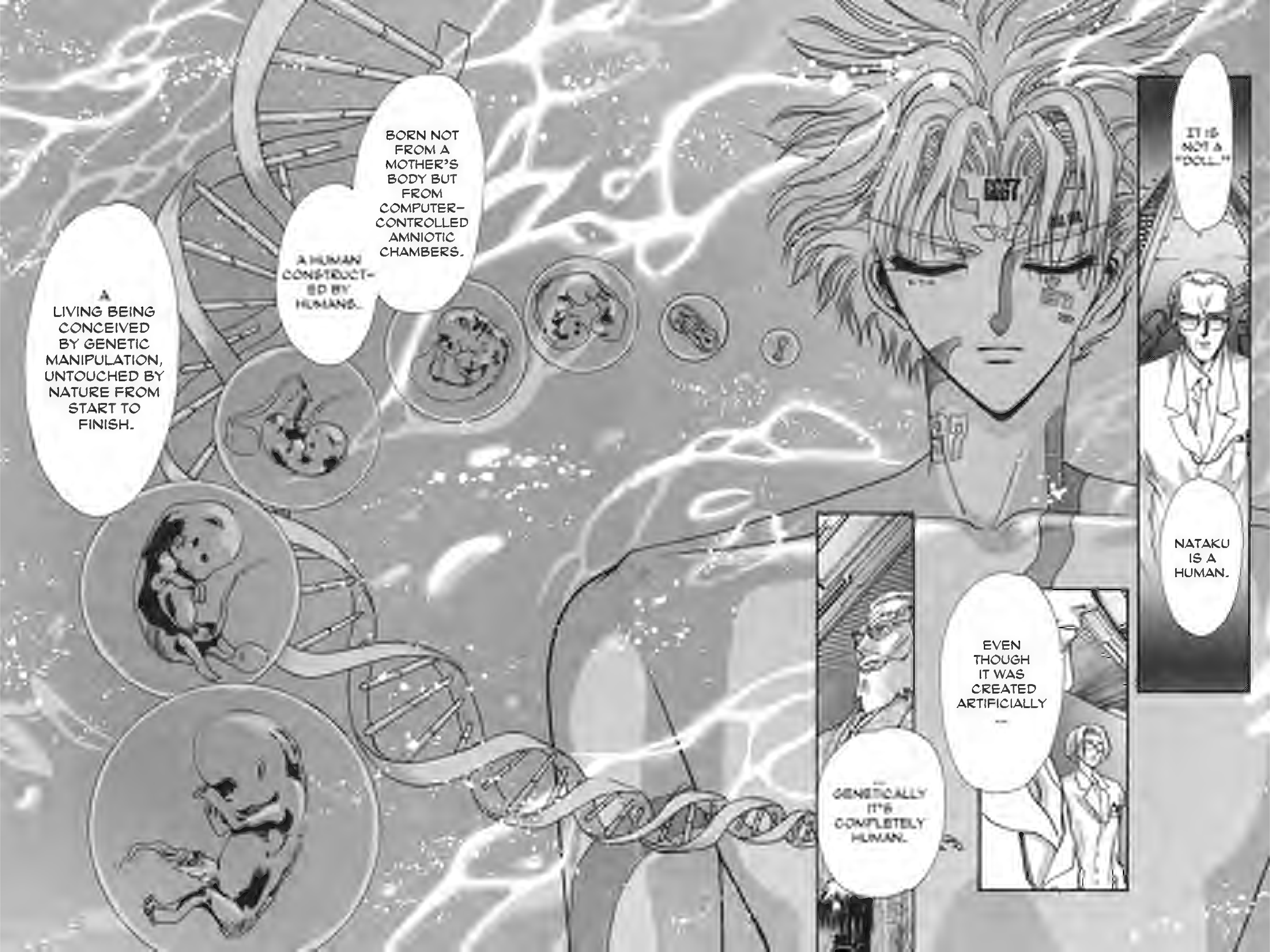

RIGHT ABOUT NOW'D BE A GOOD TIME FOR THE HEAD OF THE SUMERAGI TO SHOW UP.
WEEOO WEEOO
THE GUARDIANS OF THE CHERRY BLOSSOM BARROW ARE HEREDITARY ASSASSINS WHO SLAY THEIR VICTIMS USING ONMYO MAGIC.
AGAINST THEM STAND THE SUMERAGI. THE SUMERAGI CLAN AND THE SAKURAZUKAMORI ARE THE MOST POWERFUL ONMYOJI IN JAPAN, EQUAL AND OPPOSITE REFLECTIONS OF EACH OTHER, BLACK AND WHITE, YIN AND YANG.
WONDER IF THEY'RE EQUAL IN POWER TOO...

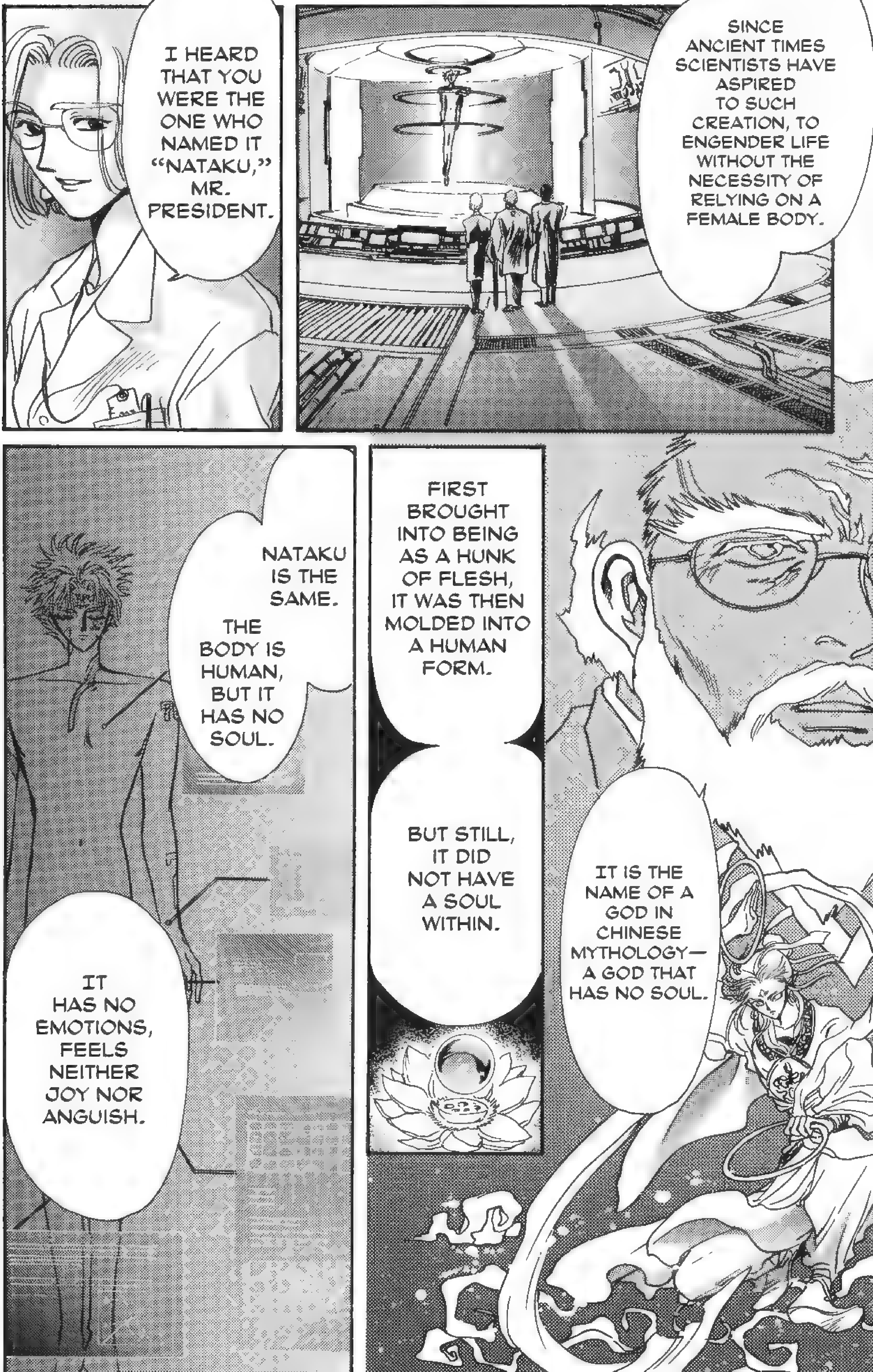

THERE'S ONE OTHER THING.
WHAT ?
ACCORDIN' TO THE RUMORS, SEEMS THE SUMERAGI HEAD AND THE SAKURAZUKAMORI HAVE FOUGHT BEFORE.

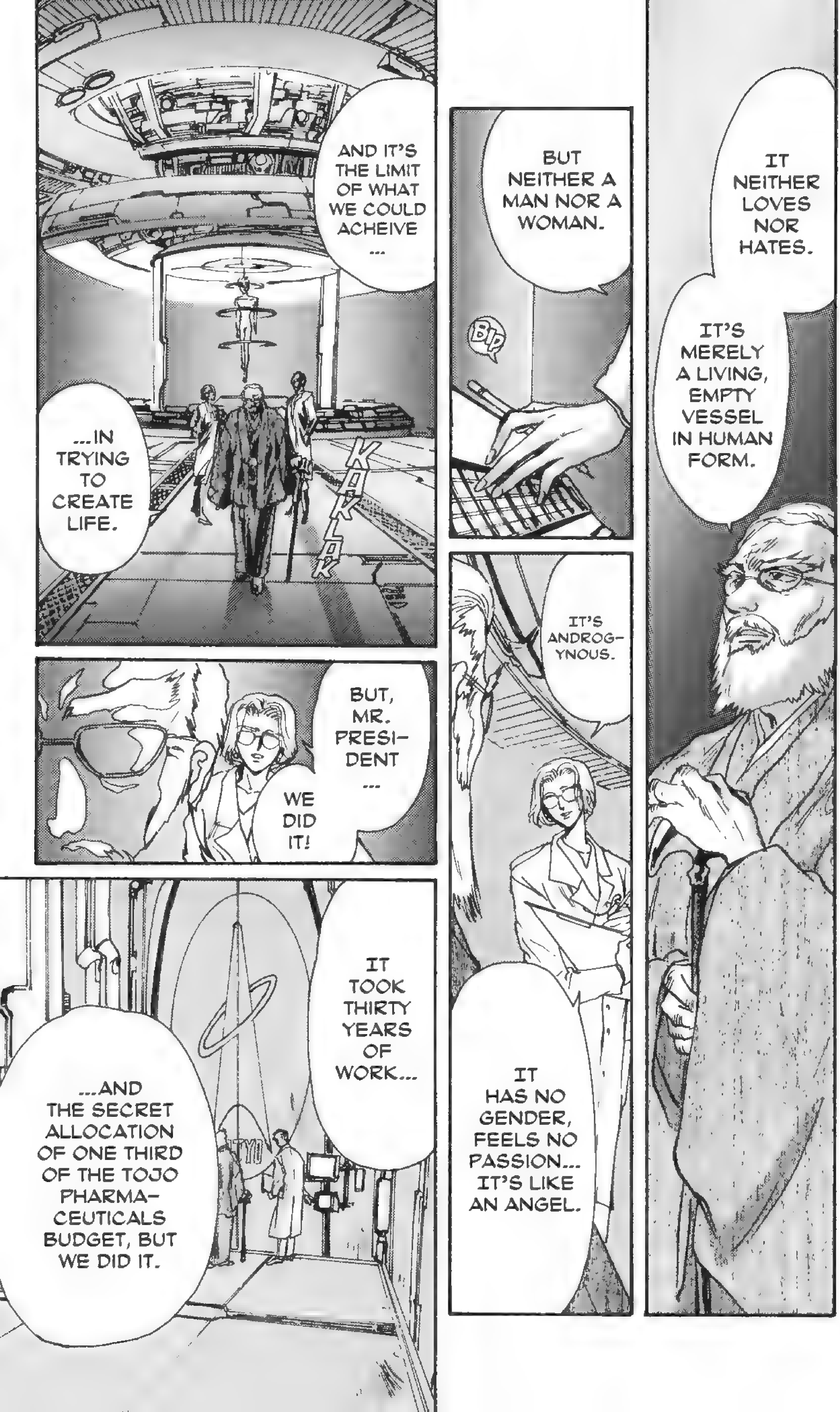

BIP BIP BIP
HEART RATE IS 60, 65, 70, 72...
CHECK!
MONITOR THE BLOOD PRESSURE.
TONK
ANY DAMAGE?
NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
BLOOD PRESSURE AND HEART RATE ARE BOTH NORMAL.
AND THERE'S NONE OF THE USUAL RISE IN WHITE BLOOD CELL COUNT.
NO PROBLEMS WITH VISION OR HEARING EITHER.
TAK TAK

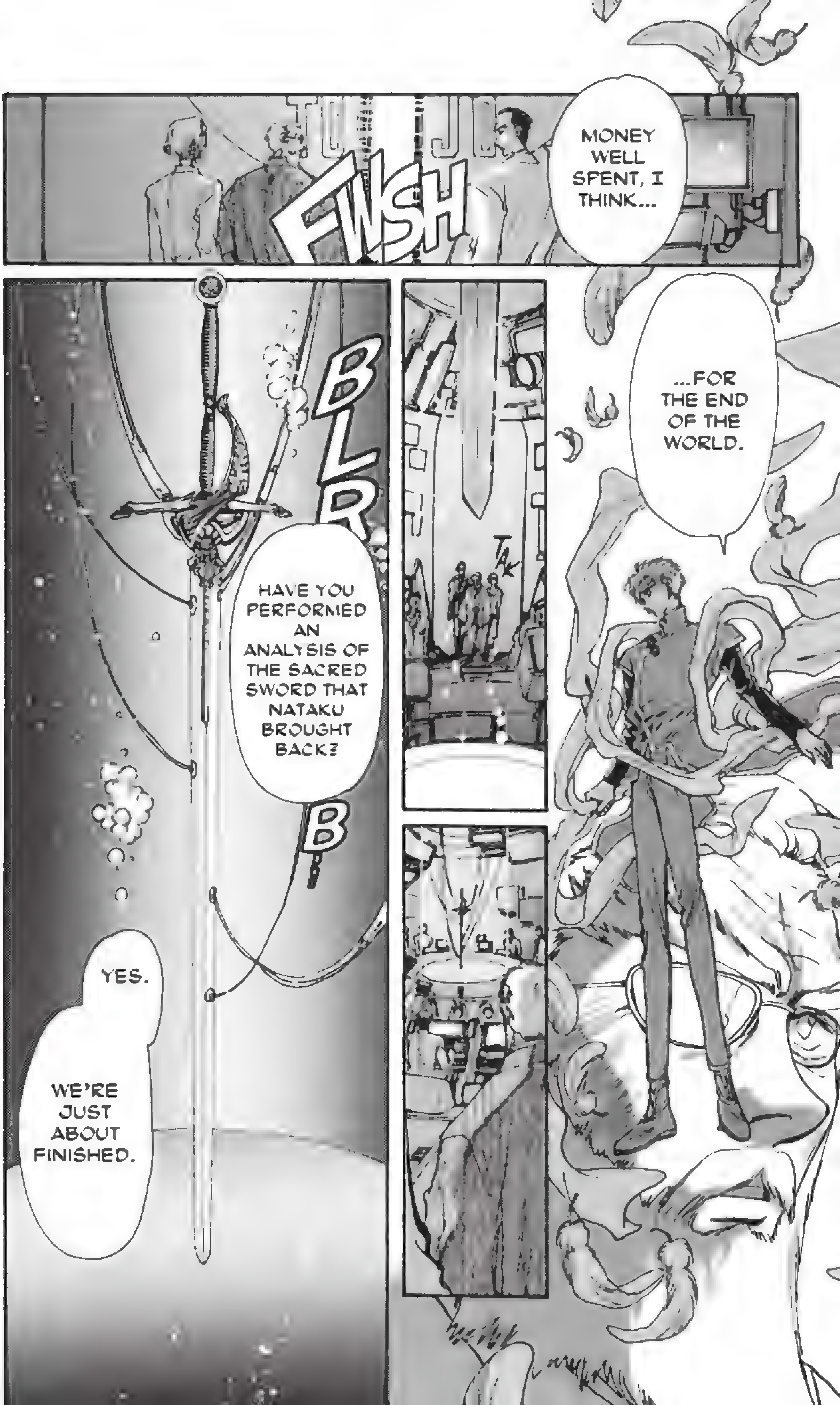

WHEN IT CAME BACK COVERED IN BLOOD WE WERE WORRIED AT FIRST.
EVEN THOUGH ITS CELLS REGENERATE TO A CERTAIN EXTENT...
...ITS BLOOD WILL SPILL THE SAME AS ANY HUMAN'S.
BUT THIS TIME THE BLOOD WAS SOMEONE ELSE'S...
YOU KNOW, IT STILL DOESN'T SEEM REAL TO ME.
MORE LIKE...
BLRP
S667

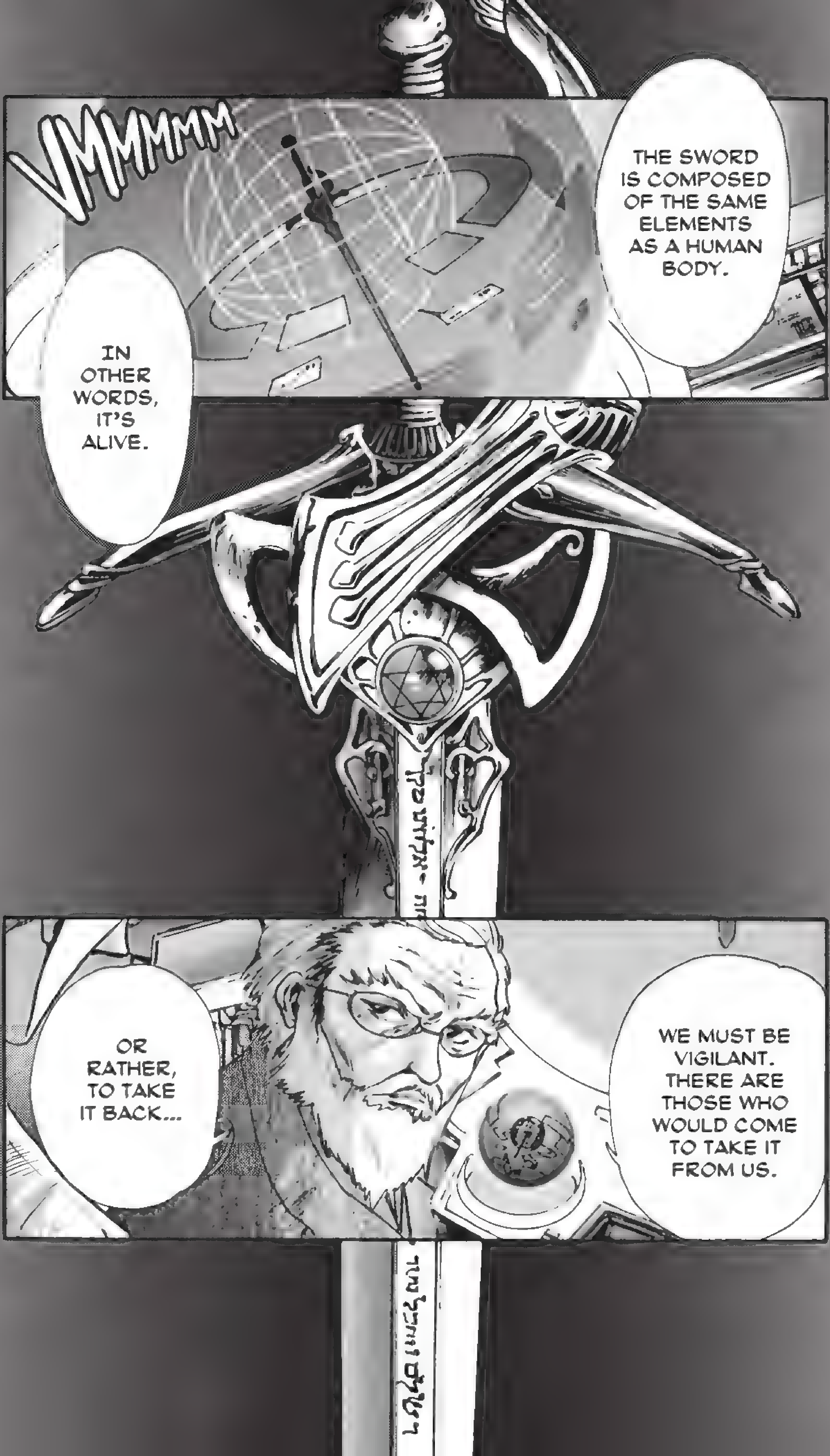

...A BEAUTIFUL DOLL.

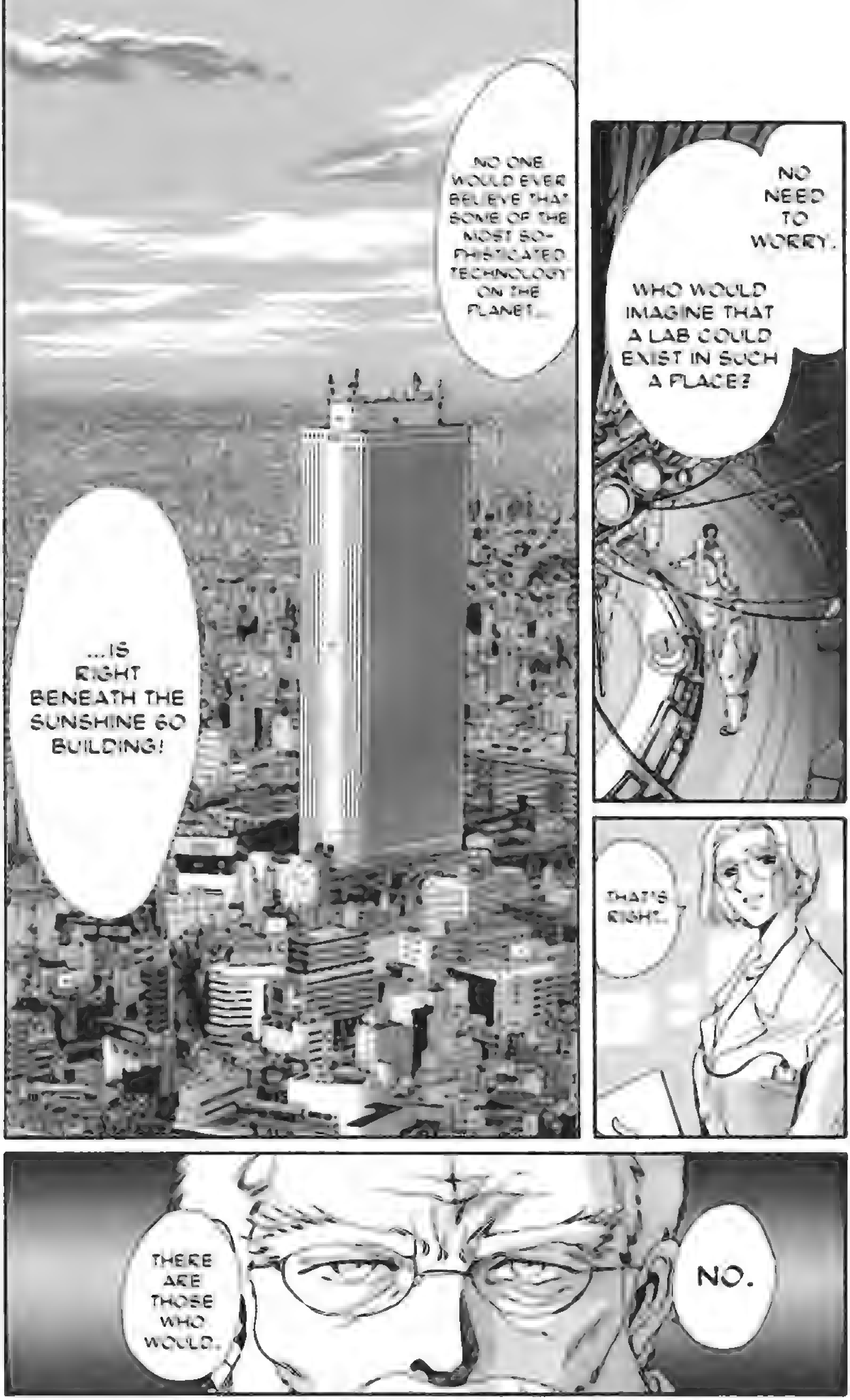

IT IS NOT A "DOLL."
NATAKU IS A HUMAN.
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS CREATED ARTIFICIALLY ...
... GENETICALLY IT'S COMPLETELY HUMAN.
BORN NOT FROM A MOTHER'S BODY BUT FROM COMPUTER-CONTROLLED AMNIOTIC CHAMBERS.
A HUMAN CONSTRUCTED BY HUMANS.
A LIVING BEING CONCEIVED BY GENETIC MANIPULATION, UNTOUCHED BY NATURE FROM START TO FINISH.

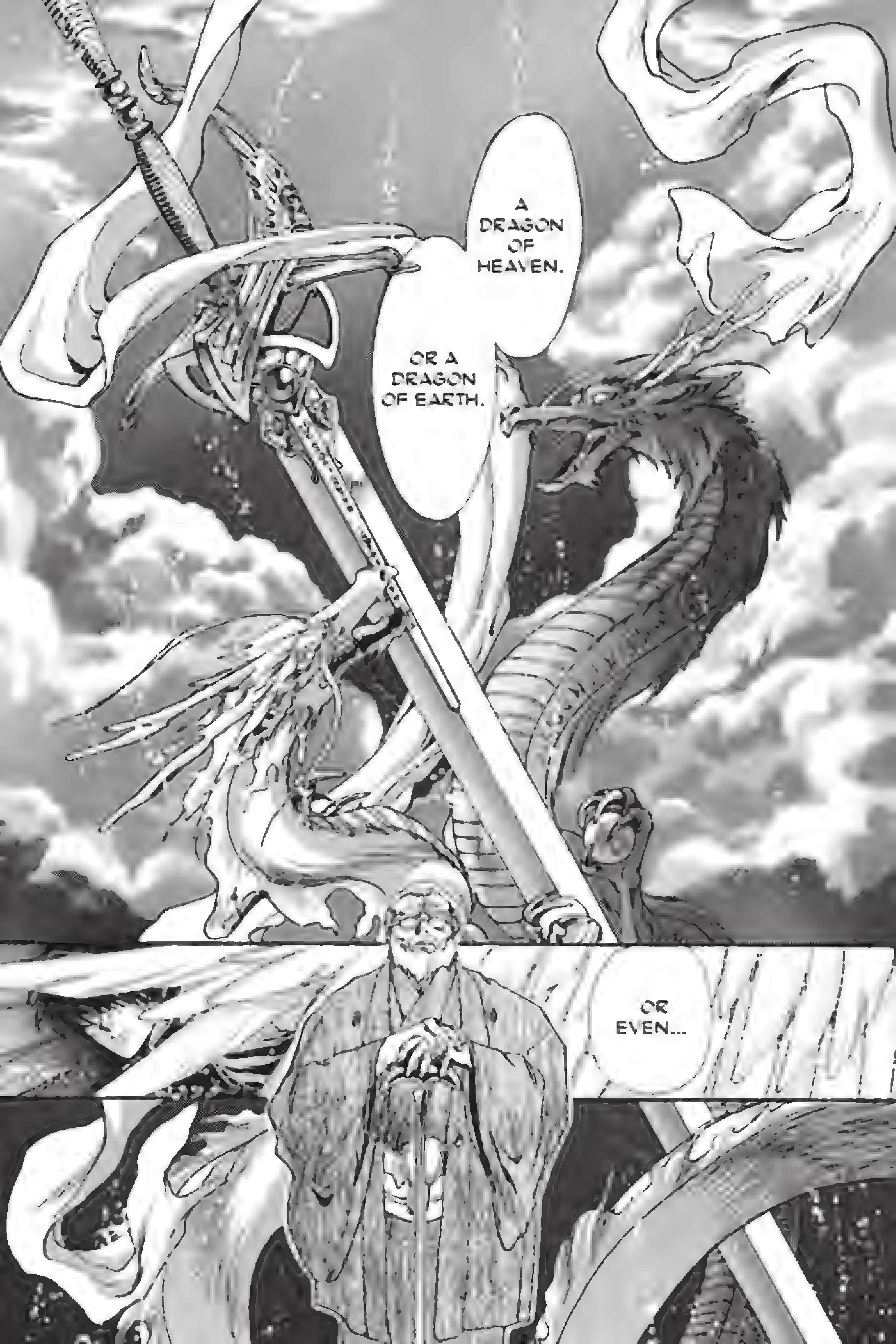

SINCE ANCIENT TIMES SCIENTISTS HAVE ASPIRED TO SUCH CREATION, TO ENGENDER LIFE WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF RELYING ON A FEMALE BODY.
I HEARD THAT YOU WERE THE ONE WHO NAMED IT "NATAKU," MR. PRESIDENT.
IT IS THE NAME OF A GOD IN CHINESE MYTHOLOGY—A GOD THAT HAS NO SOUL.
FIRST BROUGHT INTO BEING AS A HUNK OF FLESH, IT WAS THEN MOLDED INTO A HUMAN FORM.
BUT STILL, IT DID NOT HAVE A SOUL WITHIN.
NATAKU IS THE SAME.
THE BODY IS HUMAN, BUT IT HAS NO SOUL.
IT HAS NO EMOTIONS, FEELS NEITHER JOY NOR ANGUISH.

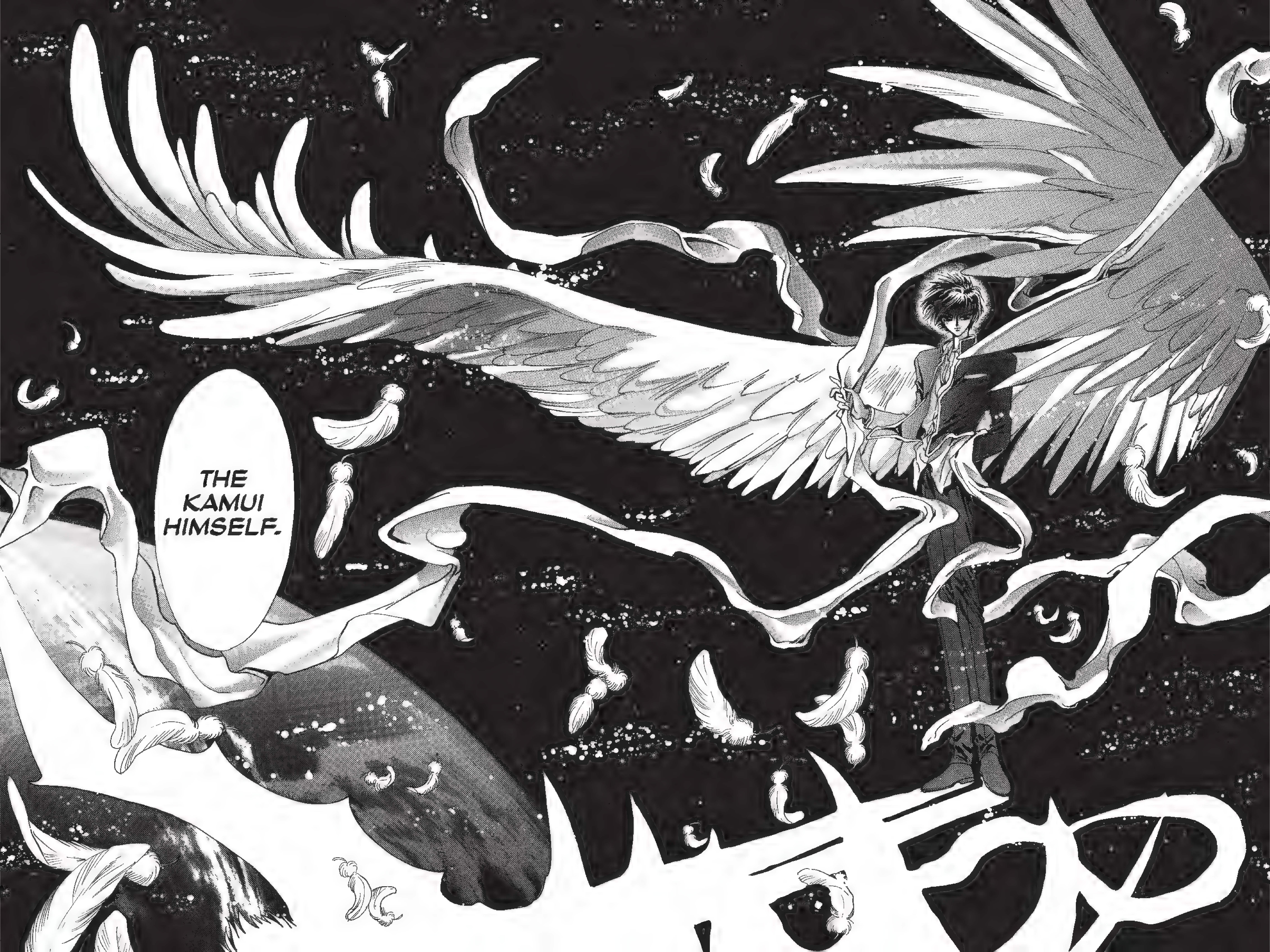

AND IT'S THE LIMIT OF WHAT WE COULD ACHEIVE ...
...IN TRYING TO CREATE LIFE.
KAKLAK
BUT, MR. PRESIDENT ...
WE DID IT!
IT TOOK THIRTY YEARS OF WORK...
...AND THE SECRET ALLOCATION OF ONE THIRD OF THE TOJO PHARMACEUTICALS BUDGET, BUT WE DID IT.
BUT NEITHER A MAN NOR A WOMAN.
BIP
IT'S ANDROGYNOUS.
IT HAS NO GENDER, FEELS NO PASSION... IT'S LIKE AN ANGEL.
IT NEITHER LOVES NOR HATES.
IT'S MERELY A LIVING, EMPTY VESSEL IN HUMAN FORM.

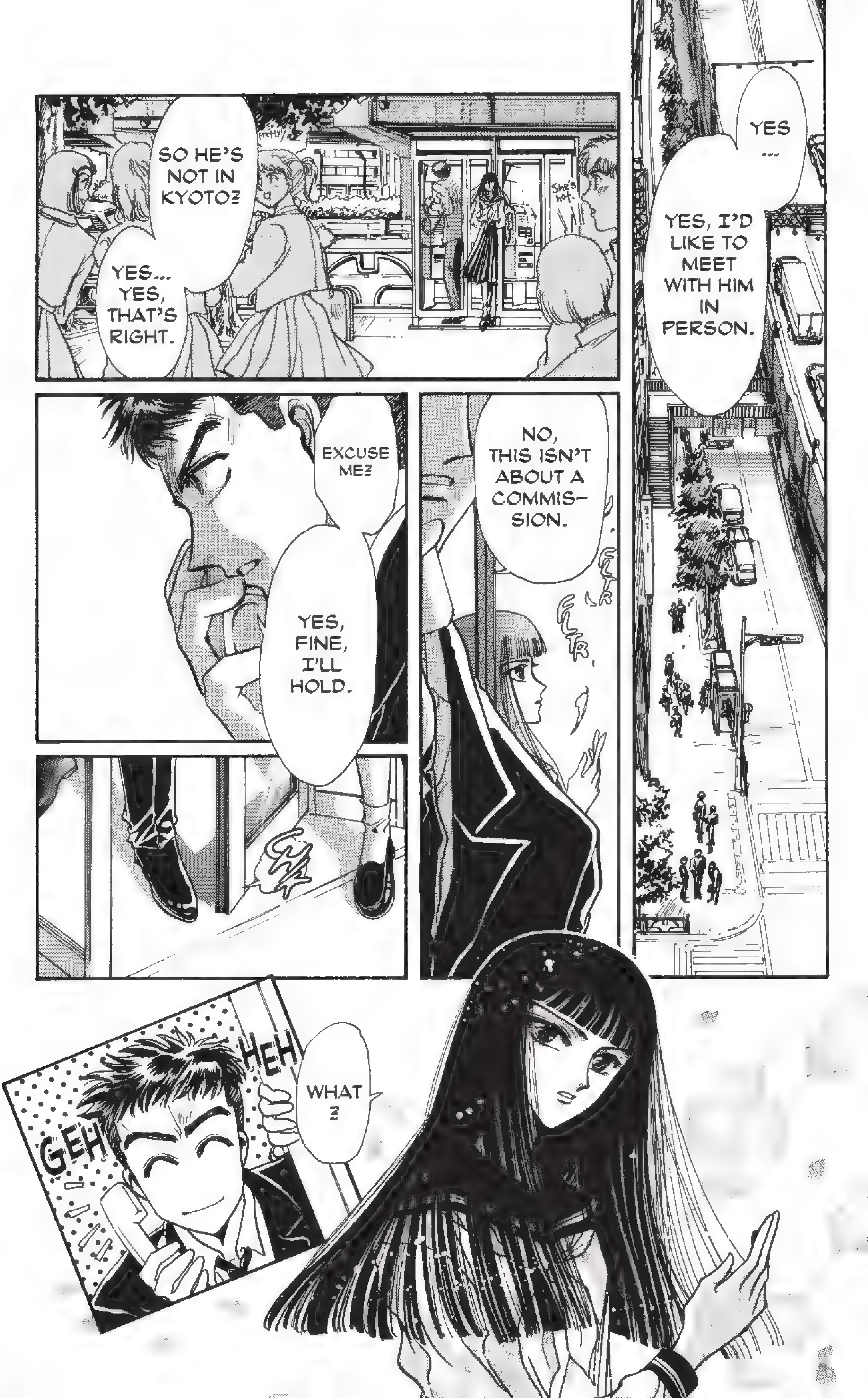

FWSH
MONEY WELL SPENT, I THINK...
...FOR THE END OF THE WORLD.
TAK
BLR
HAVE YOU PERFORMED AN ANALYSIS OF THE SACRED SWORD THAT NATAKU BROUGHT BACK?
B
YES.
WE'RE JUST ABOUT FINISHED.

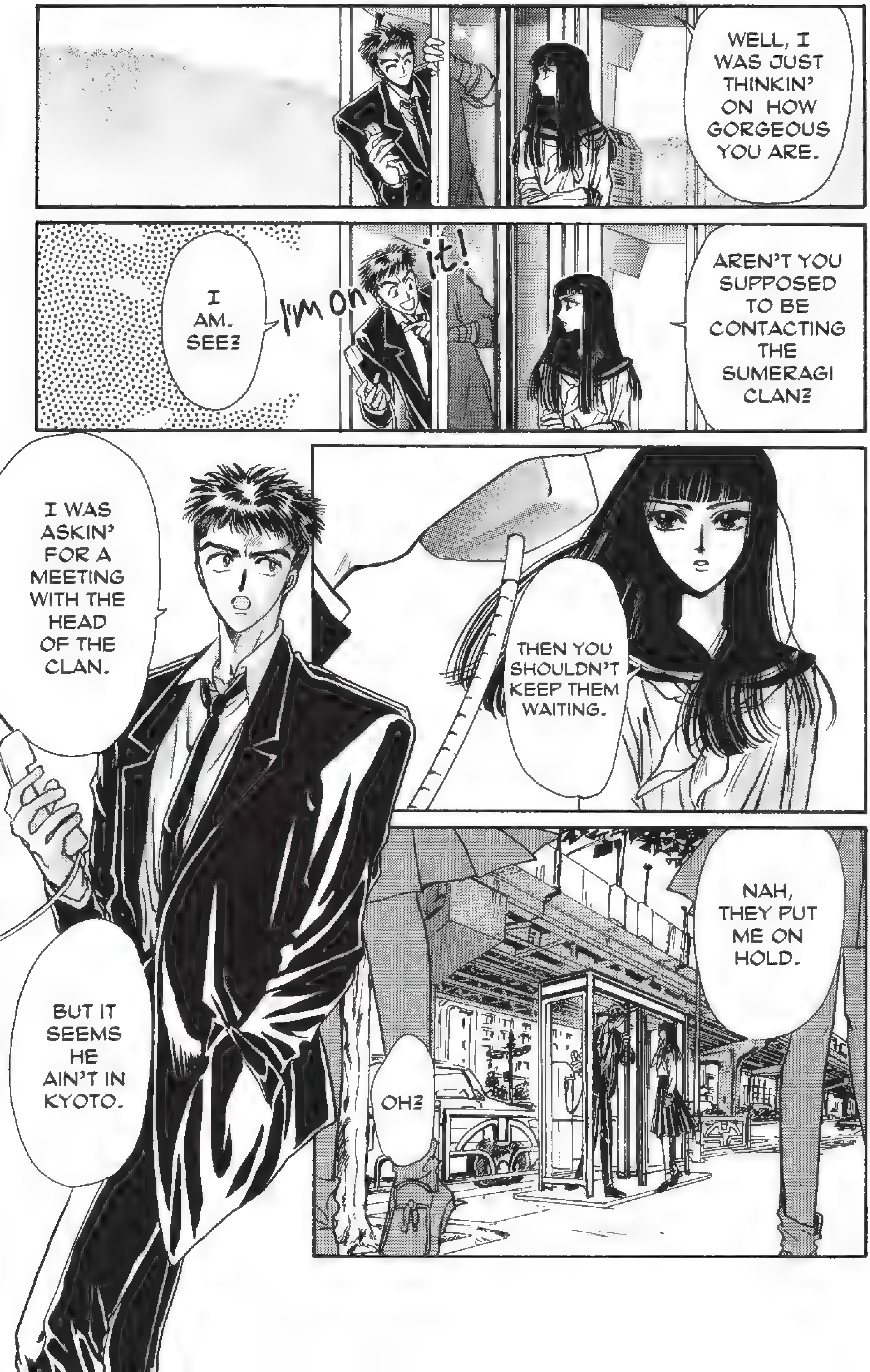

VMMMMM
THE SWORD IS COMPOSED OF THE SAME ELEMENTS AS A HUMAN BODY.
IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S ALIVE.
WE MUST BE VIGILANT. THERE ARE THOSE WHO WOULD COME TO TAKE IT FROM US.
OR RATHER, TO TAKE IT BACK...

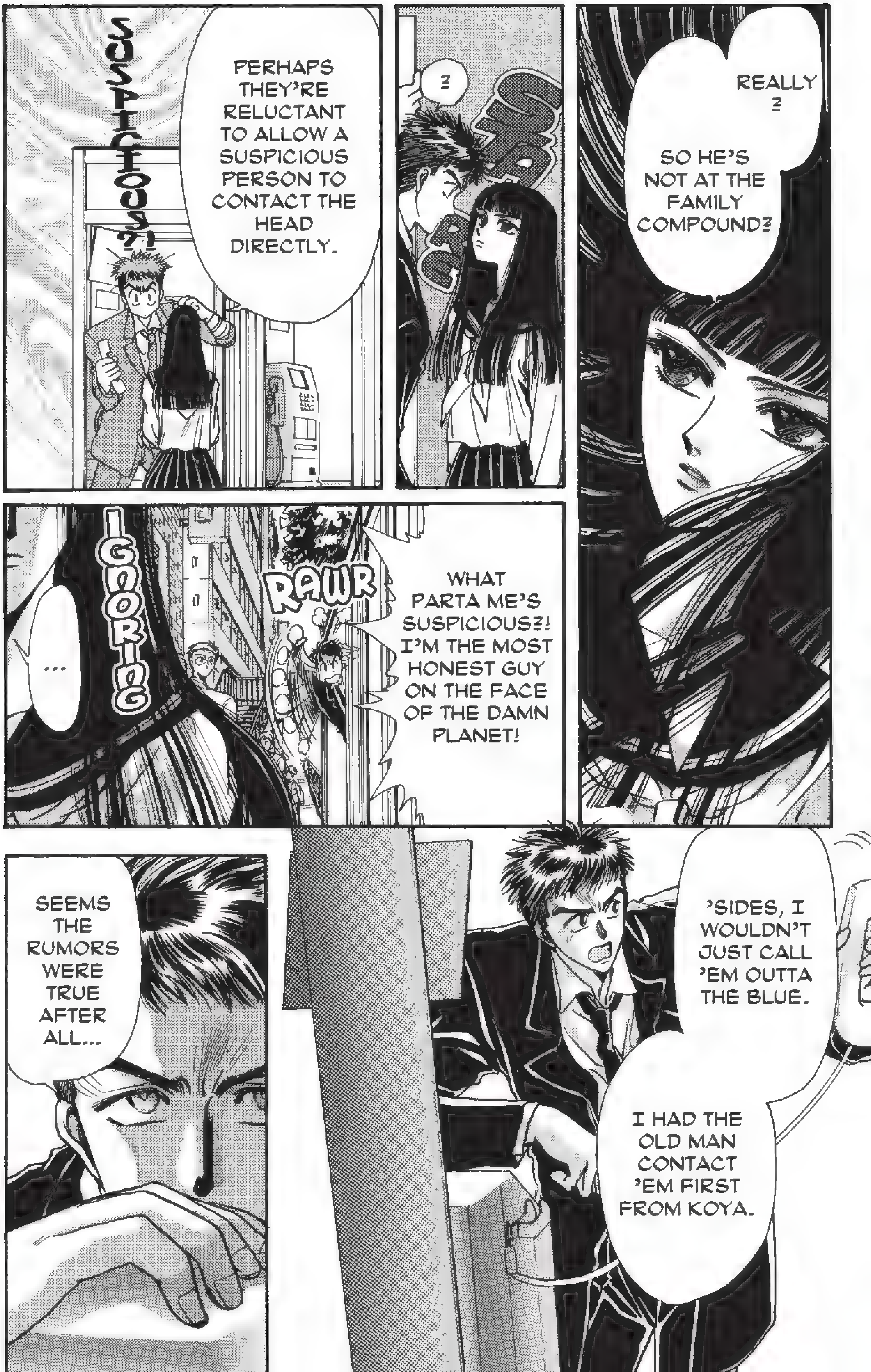

NO ONE WOULD EVER BELIEVE THAT SOME OF THE MOST SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGY ON THE PLANET...
...IS RIGHT BENEATH THE SUNSHINE 60 BUILDING!
NO NEED TO WORRY.
WHO WOULD IMAGINE THAT A LAB COULD EXIST IN SUCH A PLACE?
THAT'S RIGHT...
NO.
THERE ARE THOSE WHO WOULD...

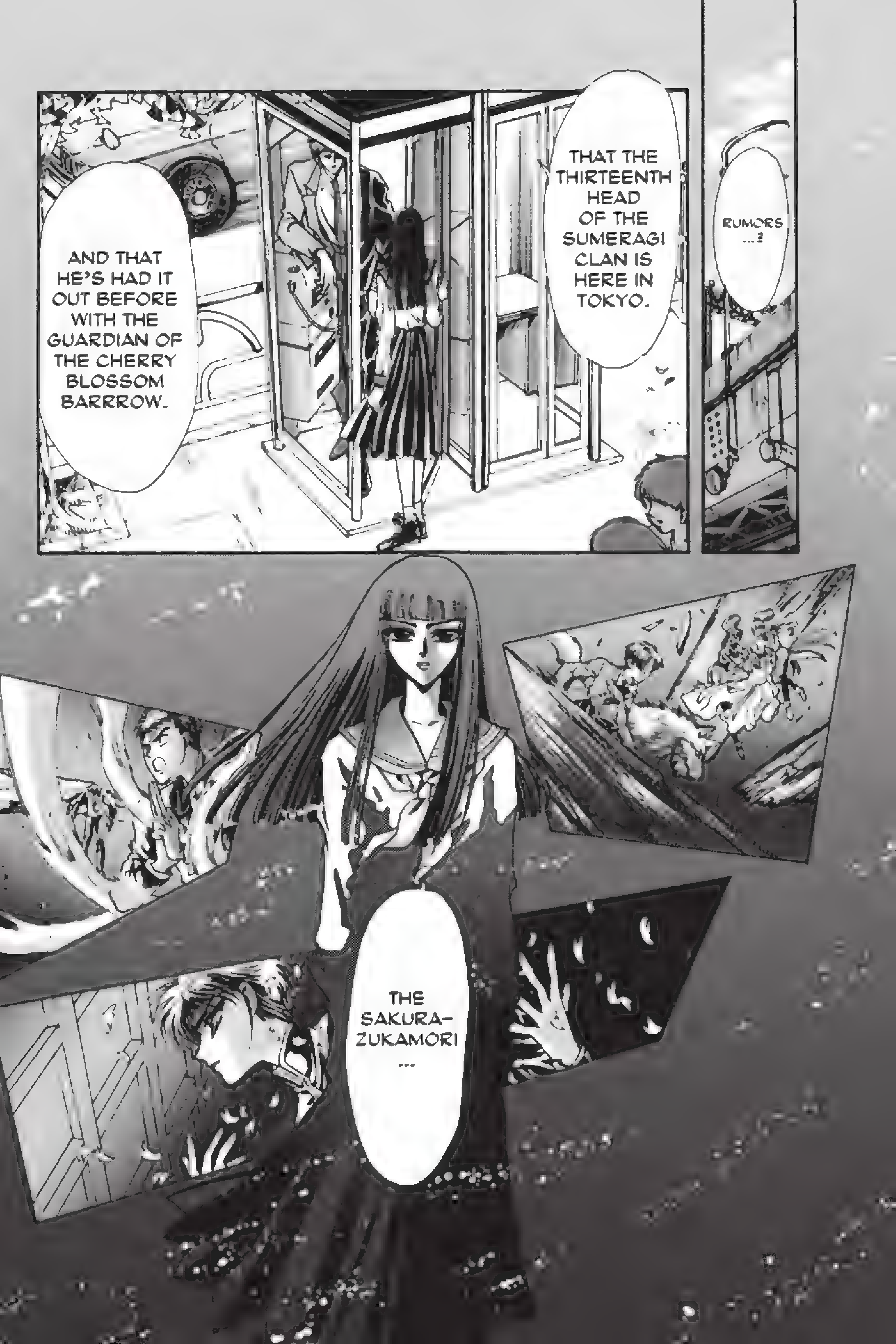

A DRAGON OF HEAVEN.
OR A DRAGON OF EARTH.
OR EVEN...

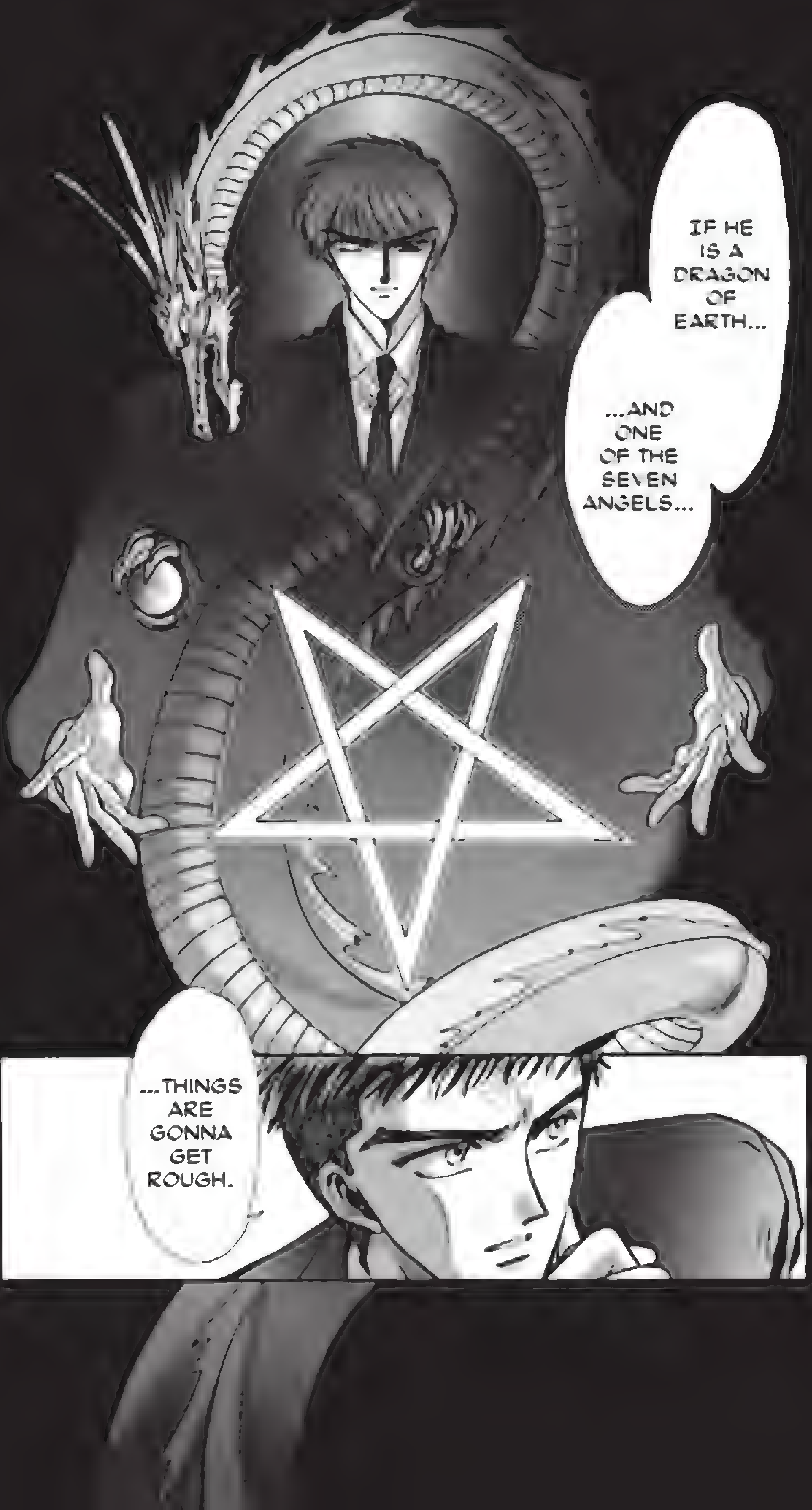

THE KAMUI HIMSELF.

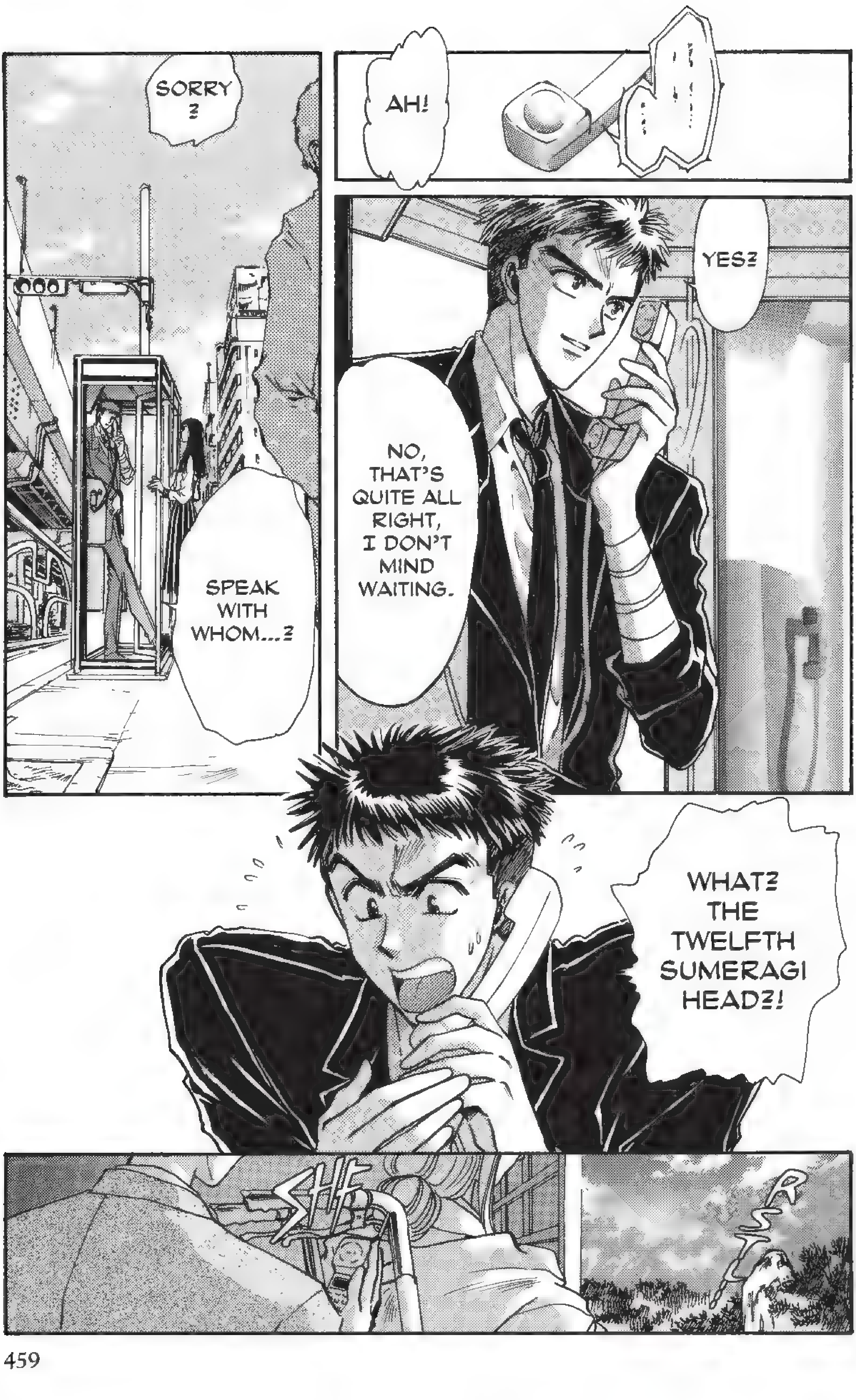

YES ...
YES, I'D LIKE TO MEET WITH HIM IN PERSON.
SO HE'S NOT IN KYOTO?
So pretty!
She's hot.
YES... YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
NO, THIS ISN'T ABOUT A COMMISSION.
FLTR
FLTR
EXCUSE ME?
YES, FINE, I'LL HOLD.
CHK
HEH
WHAT?
GEH

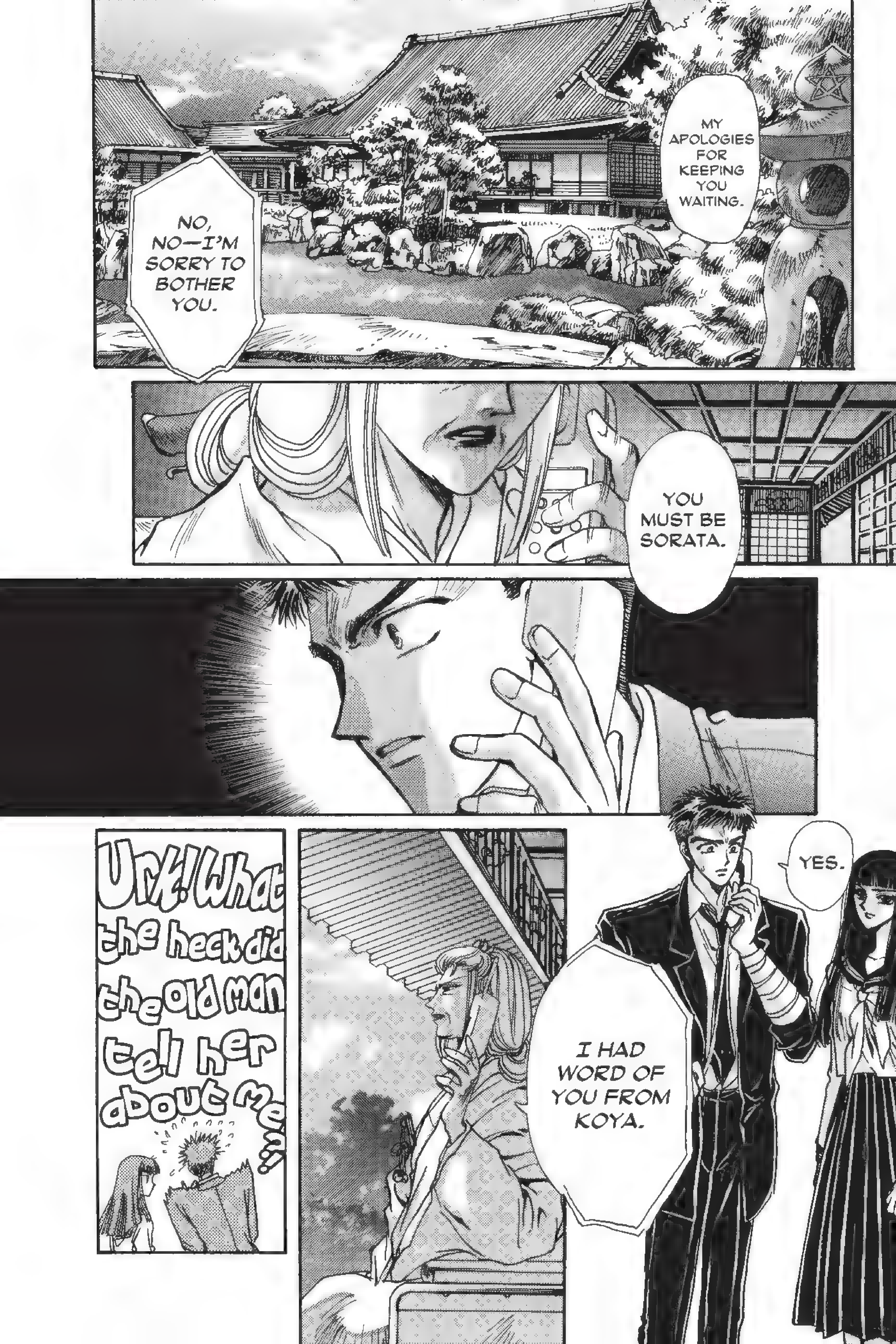

WELL, I WAS JUST THINKIN' ON HOW GORGEOUS YOU ARE.
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE CONTACTING THE SUMERAGI CLAN?
I AM. SEE?
I'm on it!
I WAS ASKIN' FOR A MEETING WITH THE HEAD OF THE CLAN.
THEN YOU SHOULDN'T KEEP THEM WAITING.
NAH, THEY PUT ME ON HOLD.
BUT IT SEEMS HE AIN'T IN KYOTO.
OH?

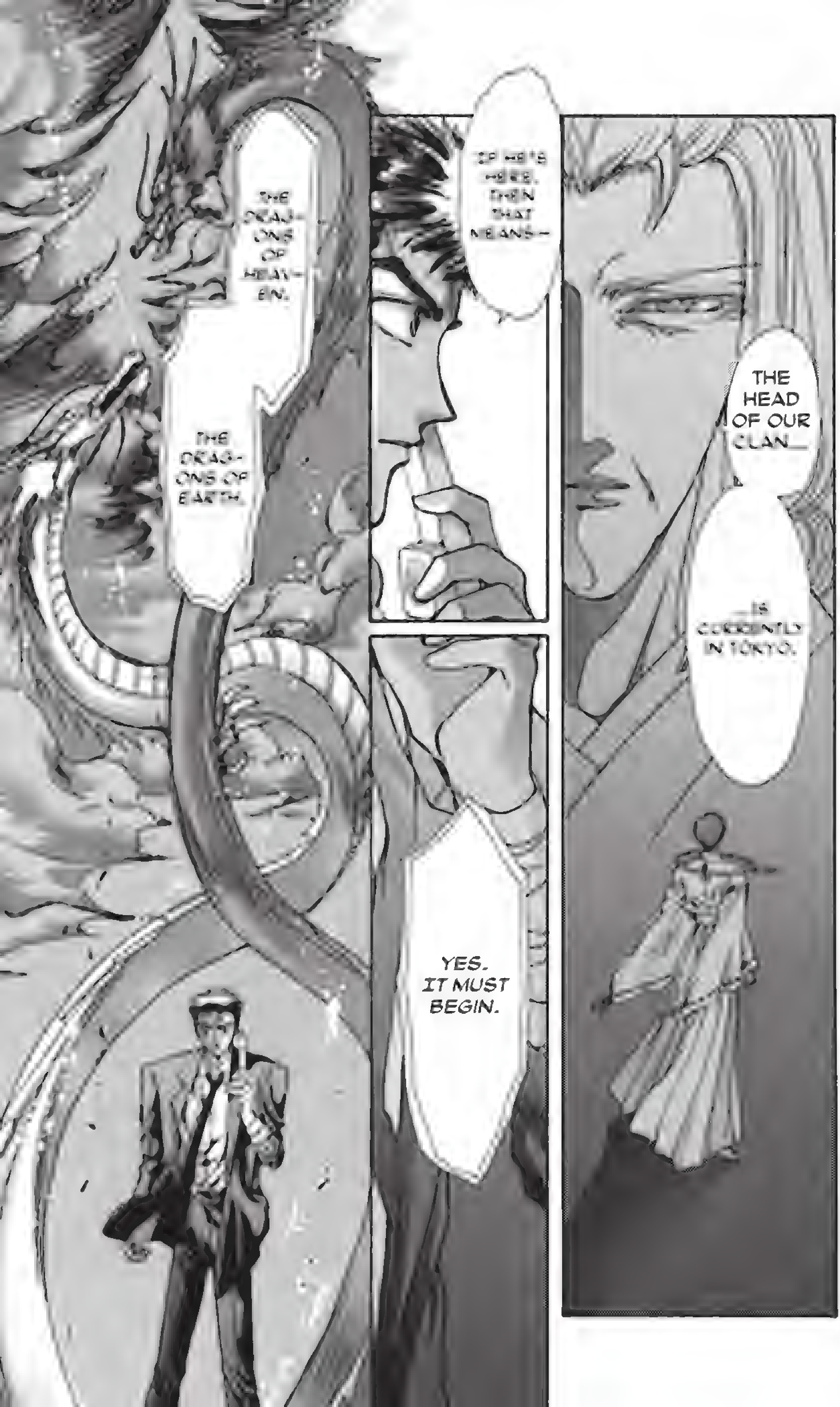

REALLY?
SO HE'S NOT AT THE FAMILY COMPOUND?
?
SNAG
SUSPICIOUS?!
PERHAPS THEY'RE RELUCTANT TO ALLOW A SUSPICIOUS PERSON TO CONTACT THE HEAD DIRECTLY.
WHAT PARTA ME'S SUSPICIOUS?! I'M THE MOST HONEST GUY ON THE FACE OF THE DAMN PLANET!
RAWR
IGNORING
...
'SIDES, I WOULDN'T JUST CALL 'EM OUTTA THE BLUE.
I HAD THE OLD MAN CONTACT 'EM FIRST FROM KOYA.
SEEMS THE RUMORS WERE TRUE AFTER ALL...

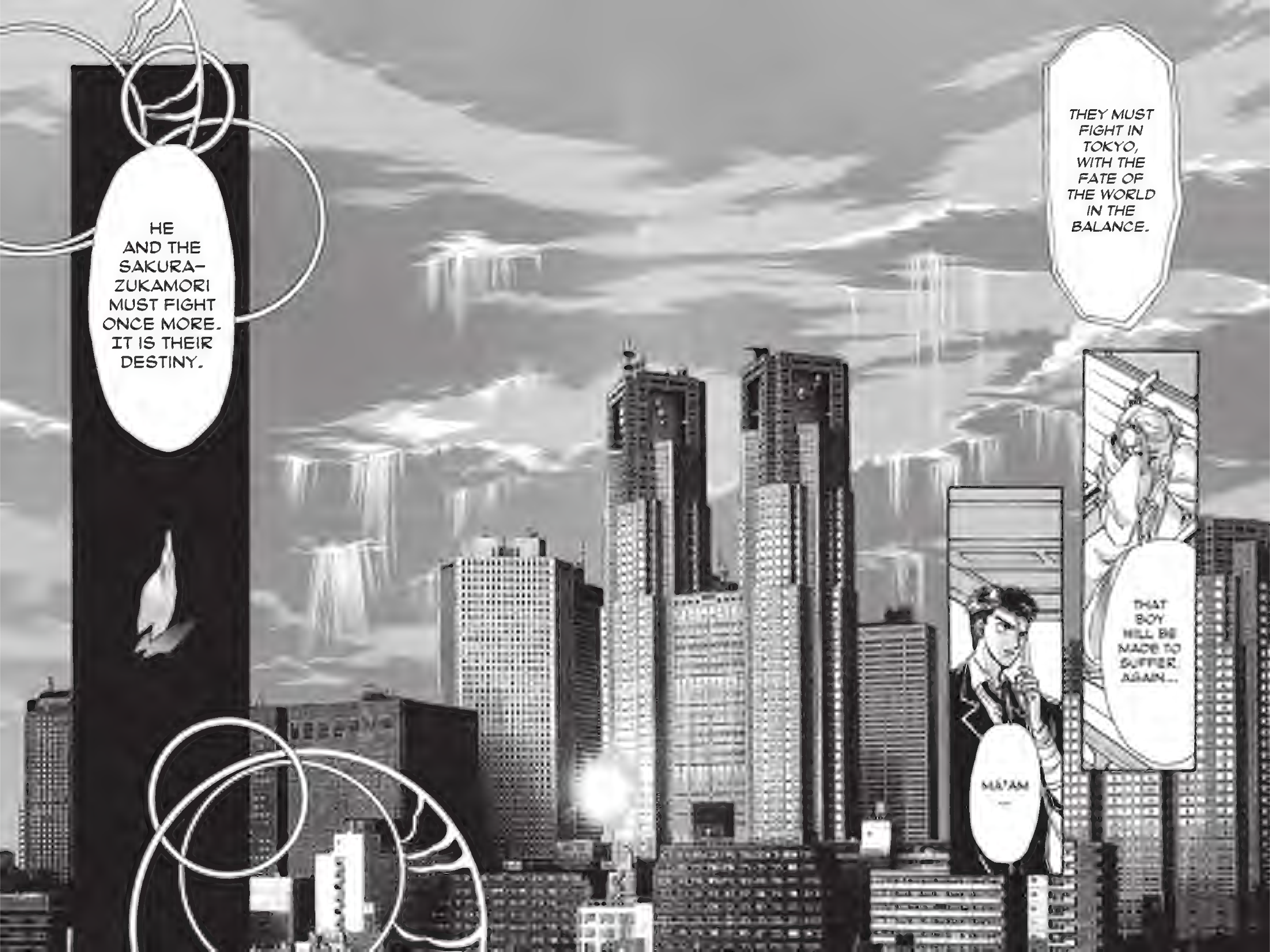

RUMORS ...?
THAT THE THIRTEENTH HEAD OF THE SUMERAGI CLAN IS HERE IN TOKYO.
AND THAT HE'S HAD IT OUT BEFORE WITH THE GUARDIAN OF THE CHERRY BLOSSOM BARRROW.
THE SAKURA-ZUKAMORI ...


IF HE IS A DRAGON OF EARTH...
...AND ONE OF THE SEVEN ANGELS...
...THINGS ARE GONNA GET ROUGH.

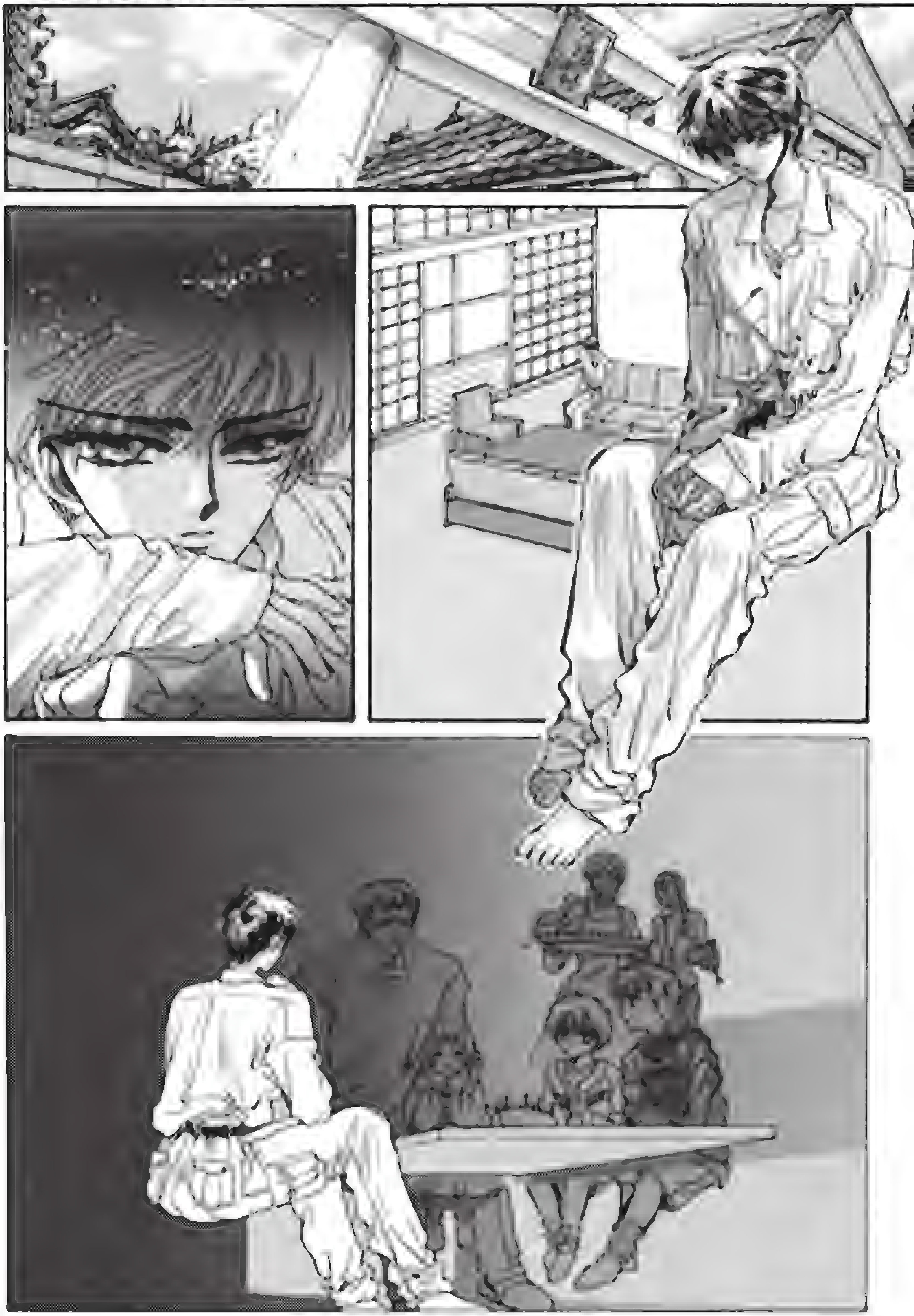

AH!
YES?
NO, THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT, I DON'T MIND WAITING.
SORRY?
SPEAK WITH WHOM...?
WHAT? THE TWELFTH SUMERAGI HEAD?!
SHF
TSR

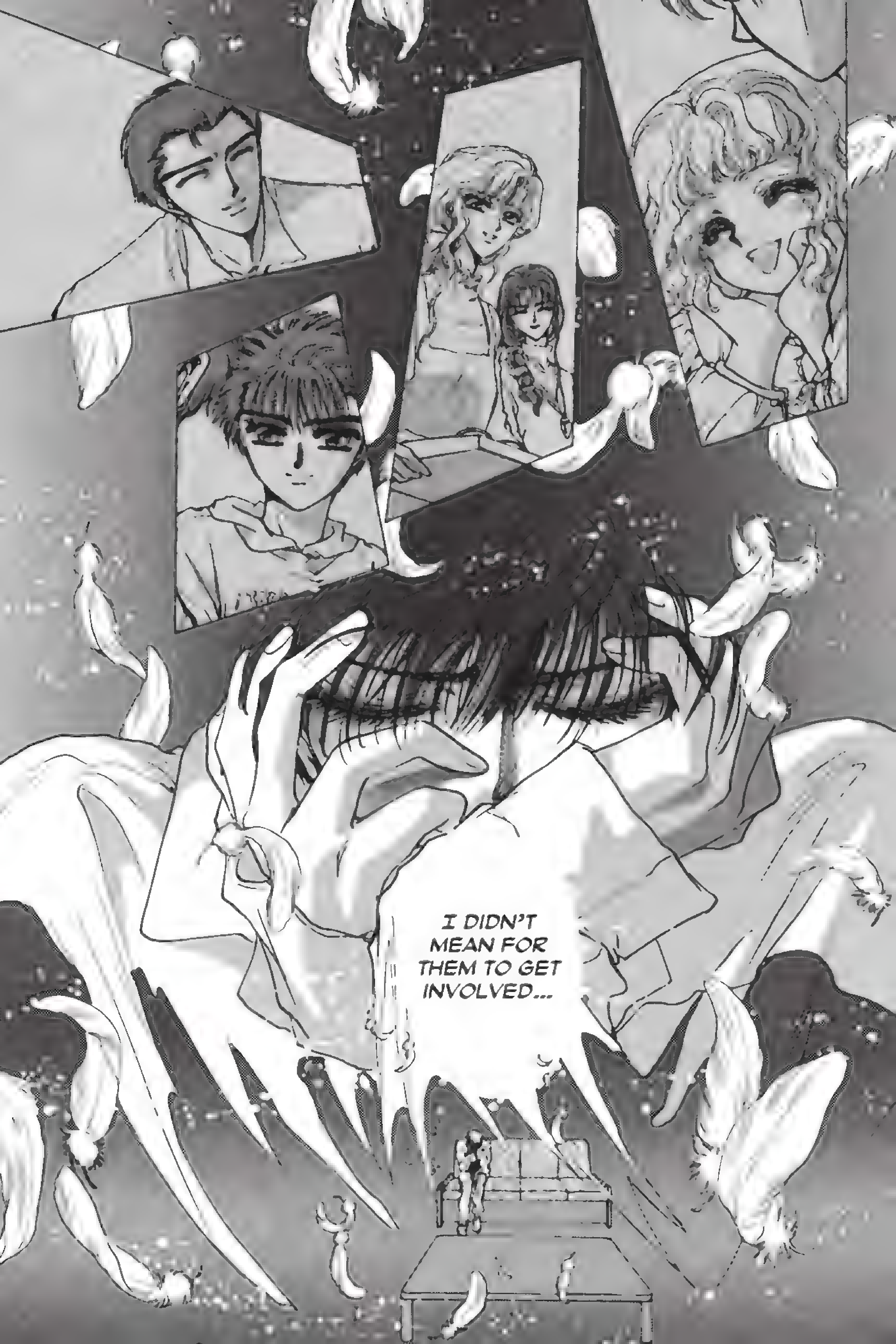

MY APOLOGIES FOR KEEPING YOU WAITING.
NO, NO—I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.
YOU MUST BE SORATA.
YES.
I HAD WORD OF YOU FROM KOYA.
Urk! What the heck did the old man tell her about me?!

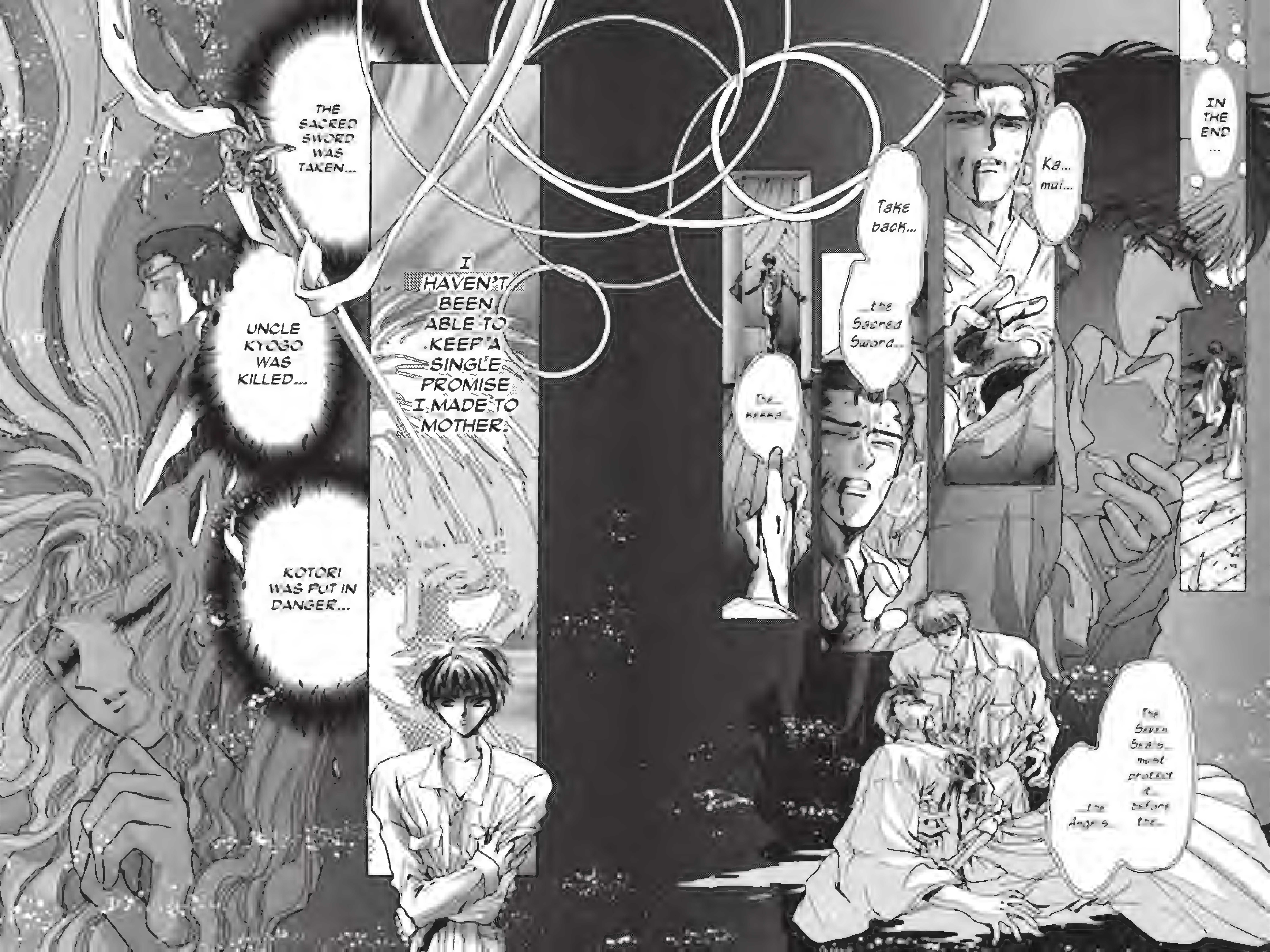

THE HEAD OF OUR CLAN...
...IS CURRENTLY IN TOKYO.
IF HE'S HERE, THEN THAT MEANS—
YES. IT MUST BEGIN.
THE DRAGONS OF HEAVEN.
THE DRAGONS OF EARTH.

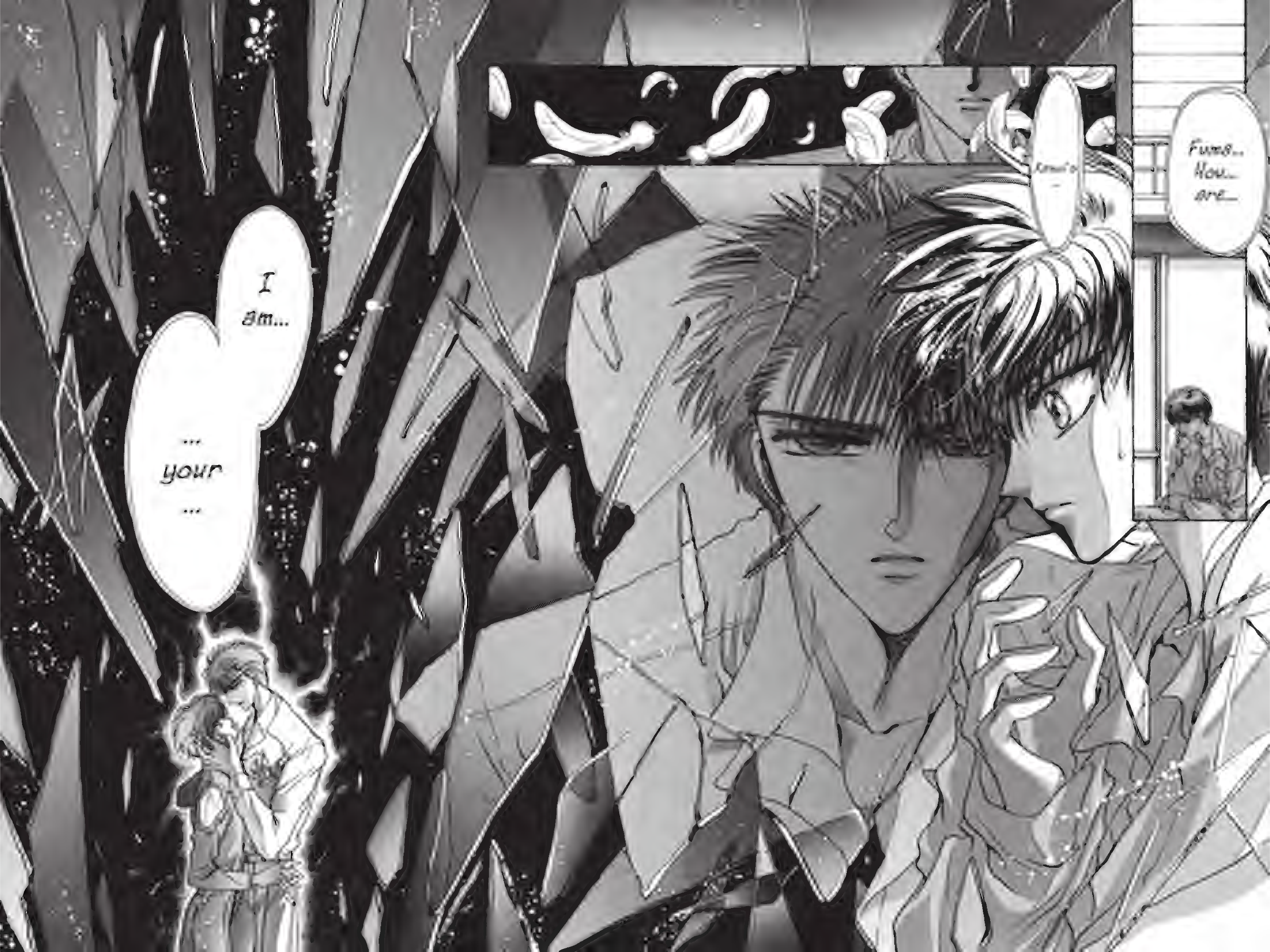

THEY MUST FIGHT IN TOKYO, WITH THE FATE OF THE WORLD IN THE BALANCE.
THAT BOY WILL BE MADE TO SUFFER AGAIN...
MA'AM ...
HE AND THE SAKURAZUKAMORI MUST FIGHT ONCE MORE. IT IS THEIR DESTINY.

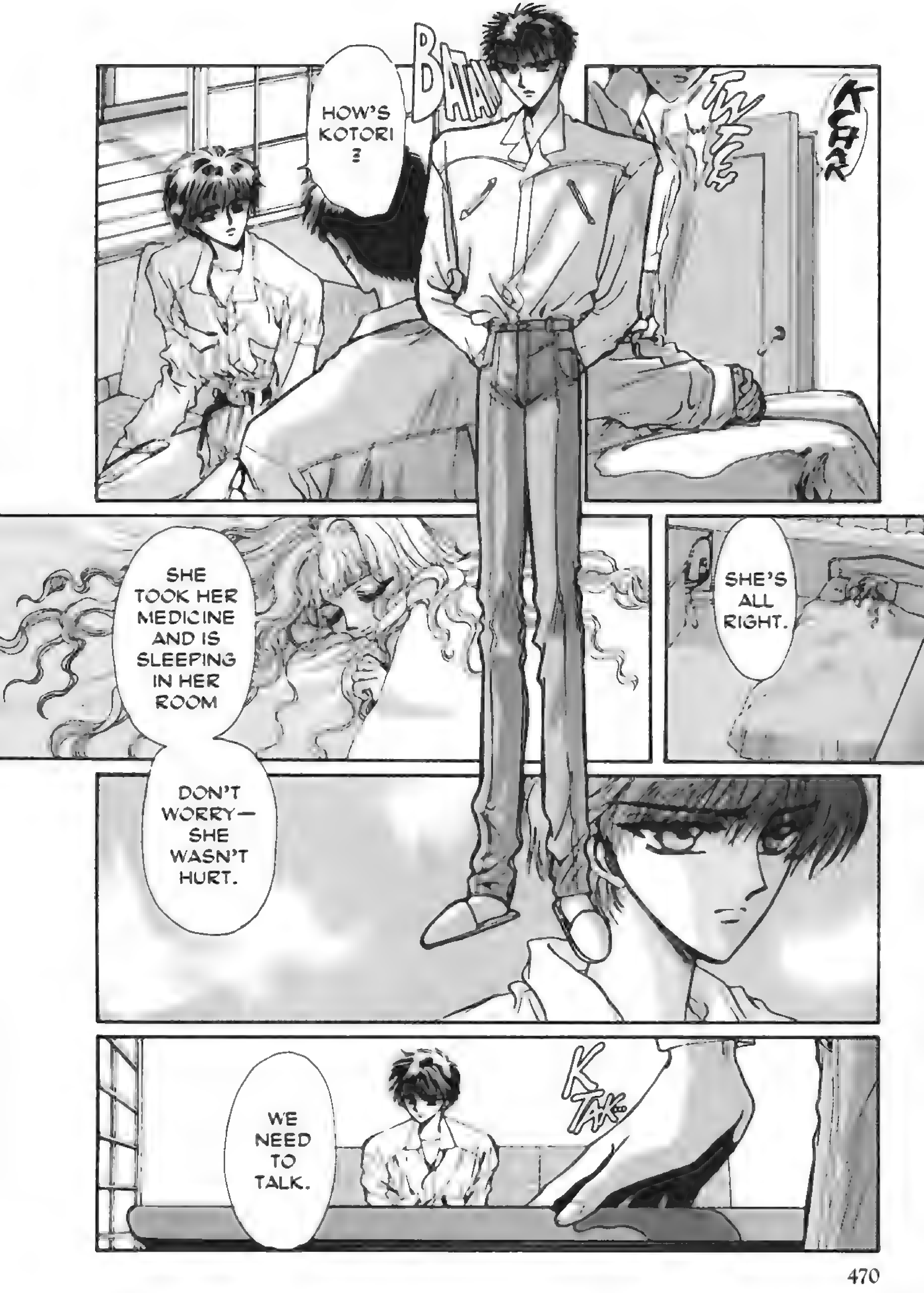
*TOGAKUSHI SHRINE

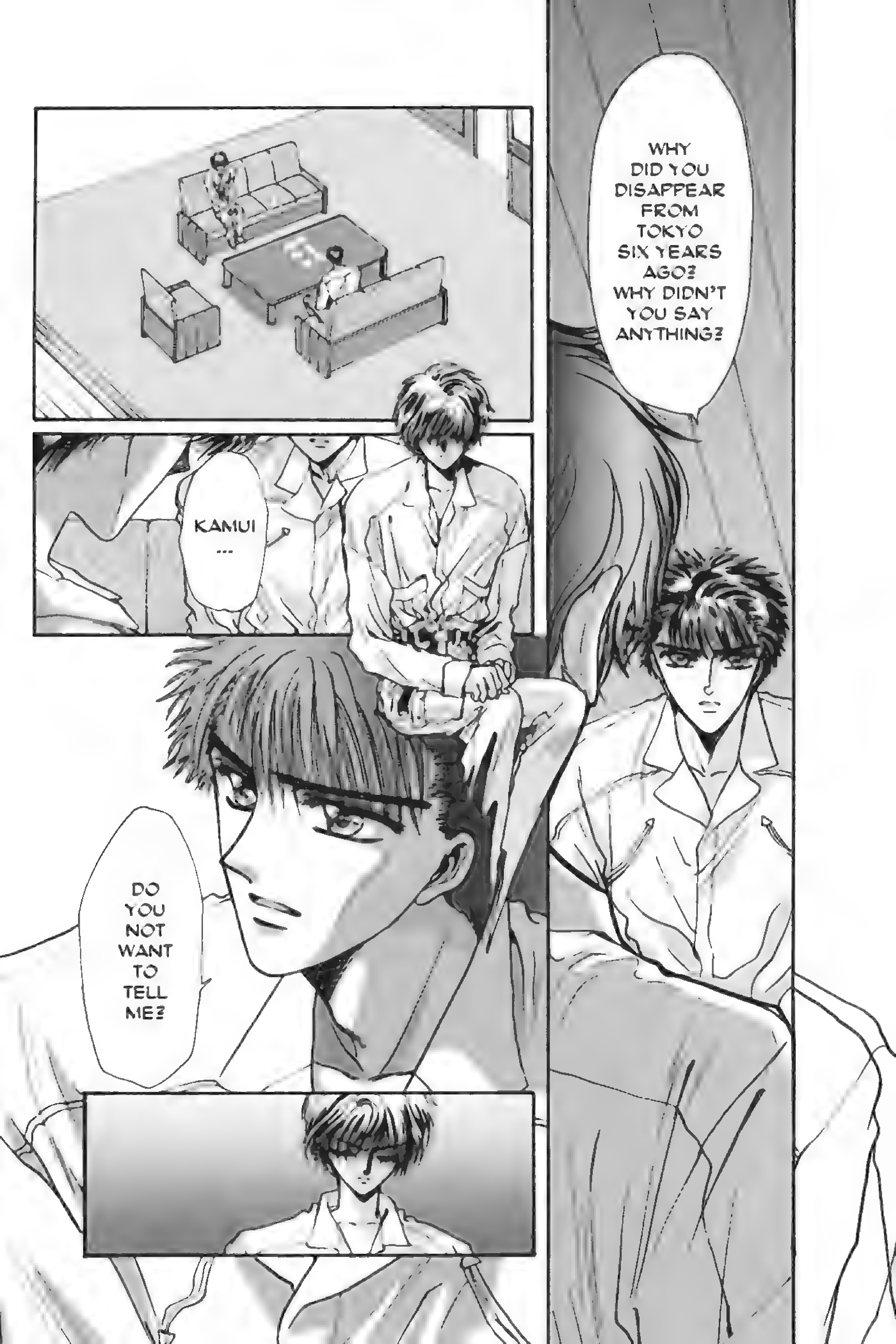


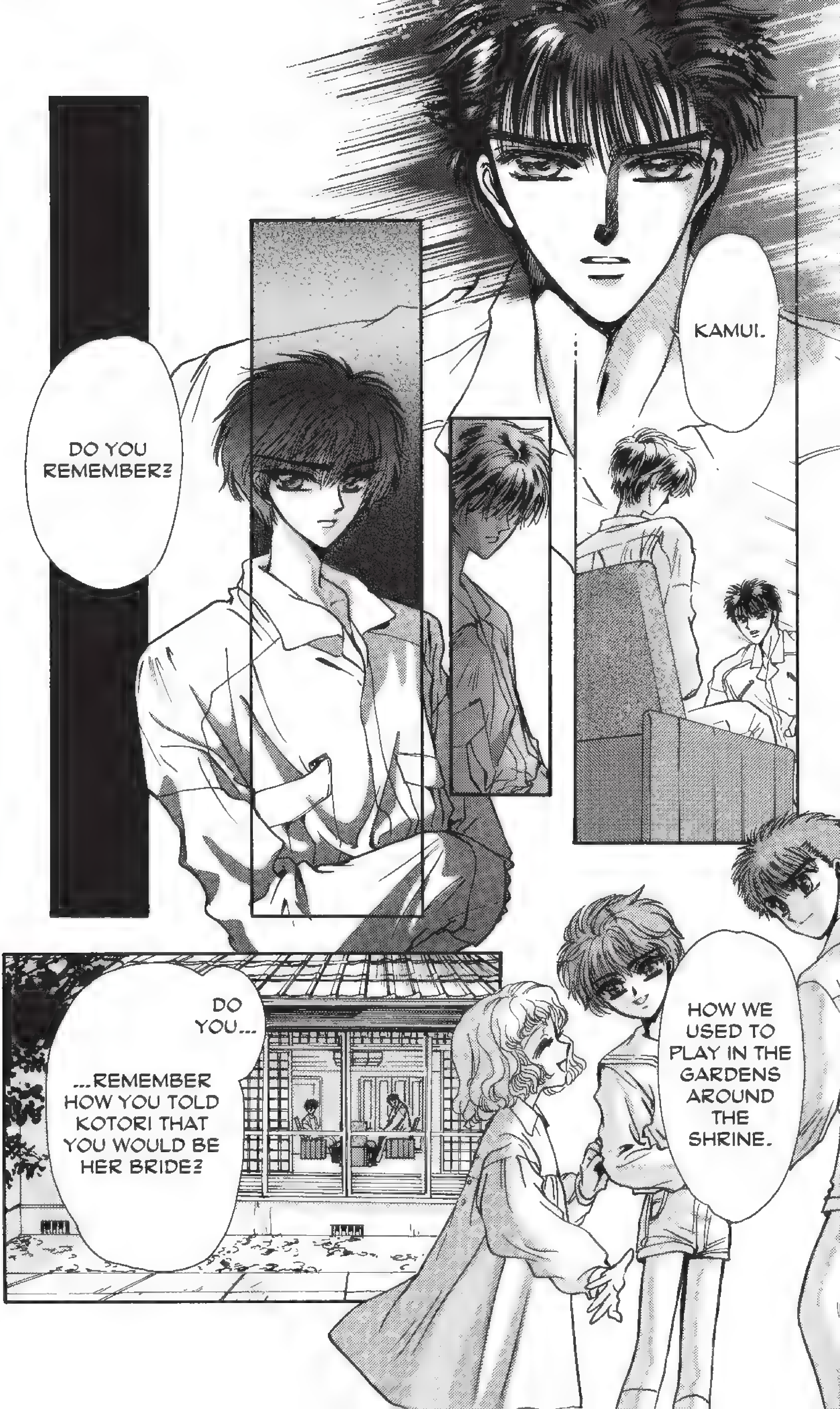

I DIDN'T MEAN FOR THEM TO GET INVOLVED...

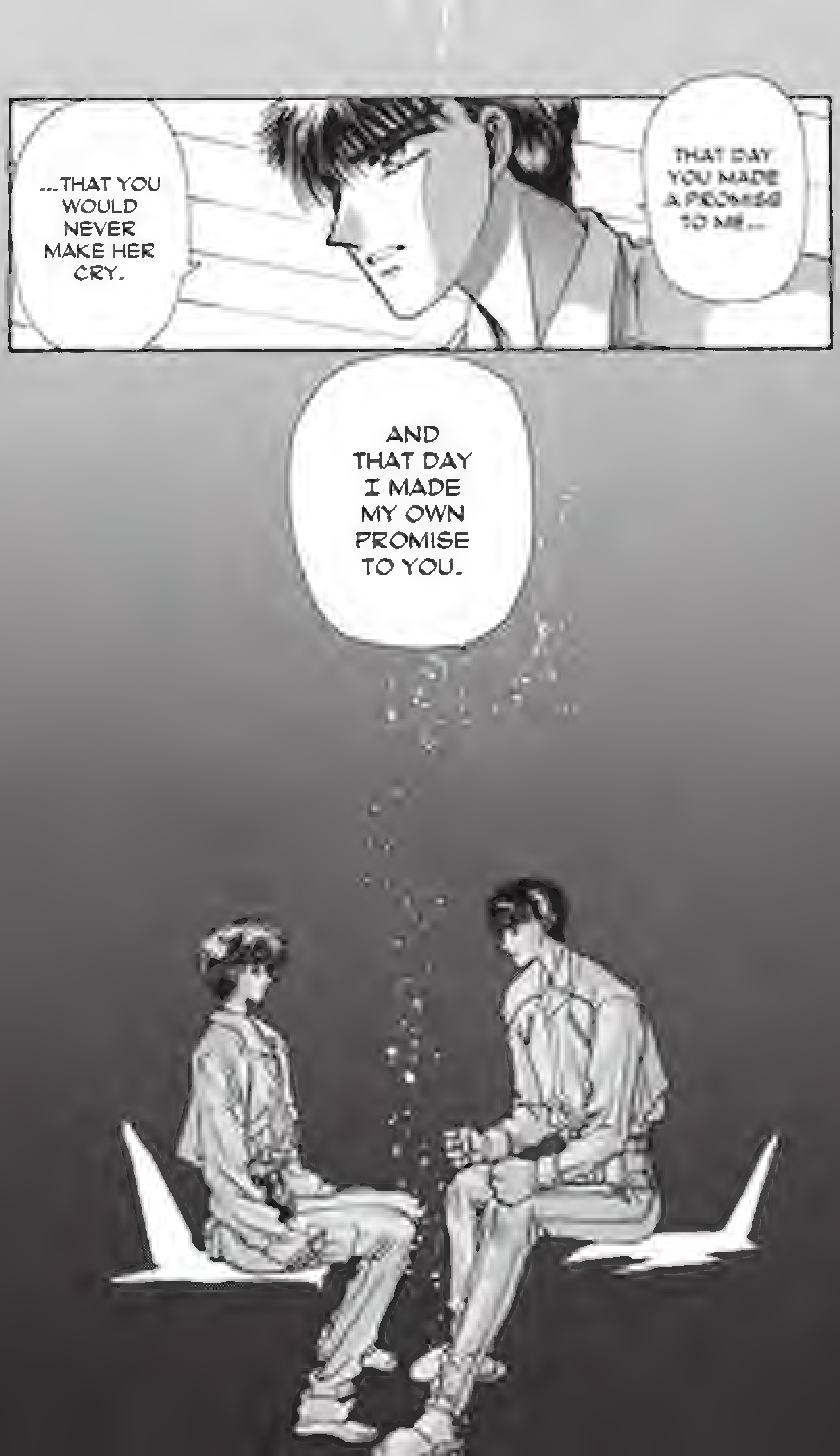

IN THE END...
Ka... mui...
Take back...
...the Sacred Sword...
The kekka...
The Seven Seals... must protect it before the...
...the Angels...
THE SACRED SWORD WAS TAKEN...
UNCLE KYOGO WAS KILLED...
KOTORI WAS PUT IN DANGER...
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO KEEP A SINGLE PROMISE I MADE TO MOTHER.

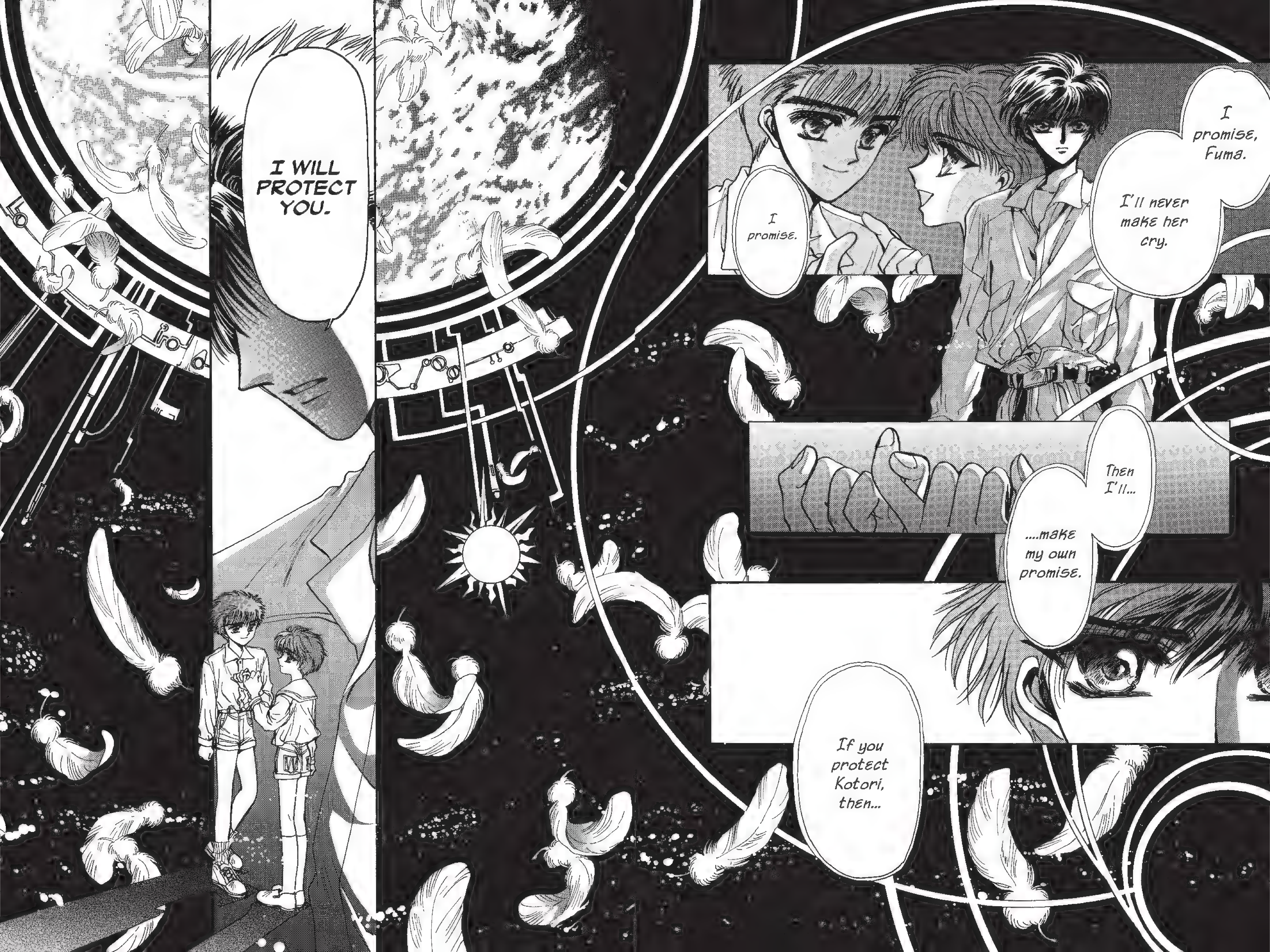

Fuma... You... are...
Kamui!? —
I am...
... your ...

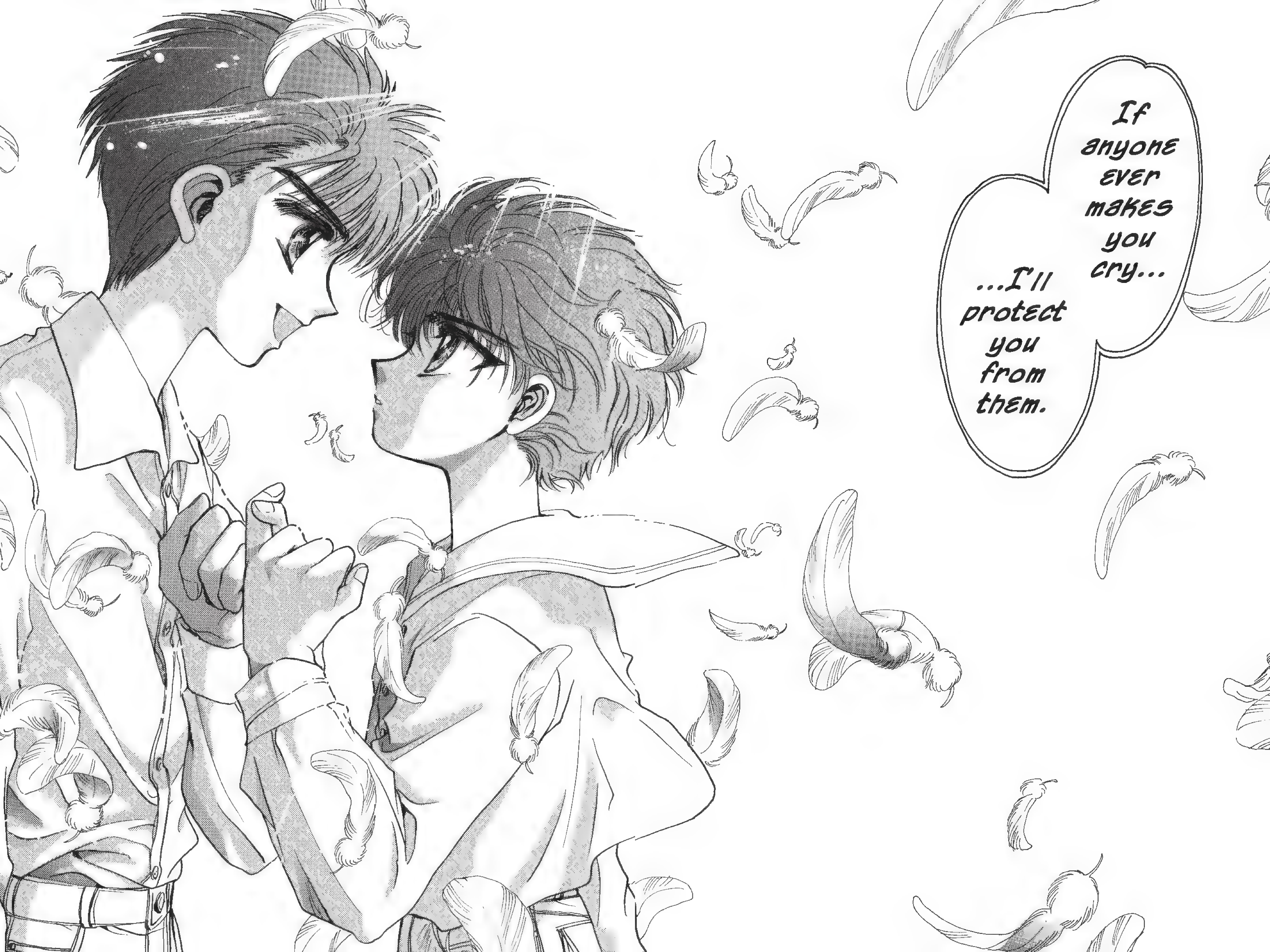

KCHAK
TWEEE
BATAN
HOW'S KOTORI?
SHE'S ALL RIGHT.
SHE TOOK HER MEDICINE AND IS SLEEPING IN HER ROOM
DON'T WORRY— SHE WASN'T HURT.
KTAK...
WE NEED TO TALK.

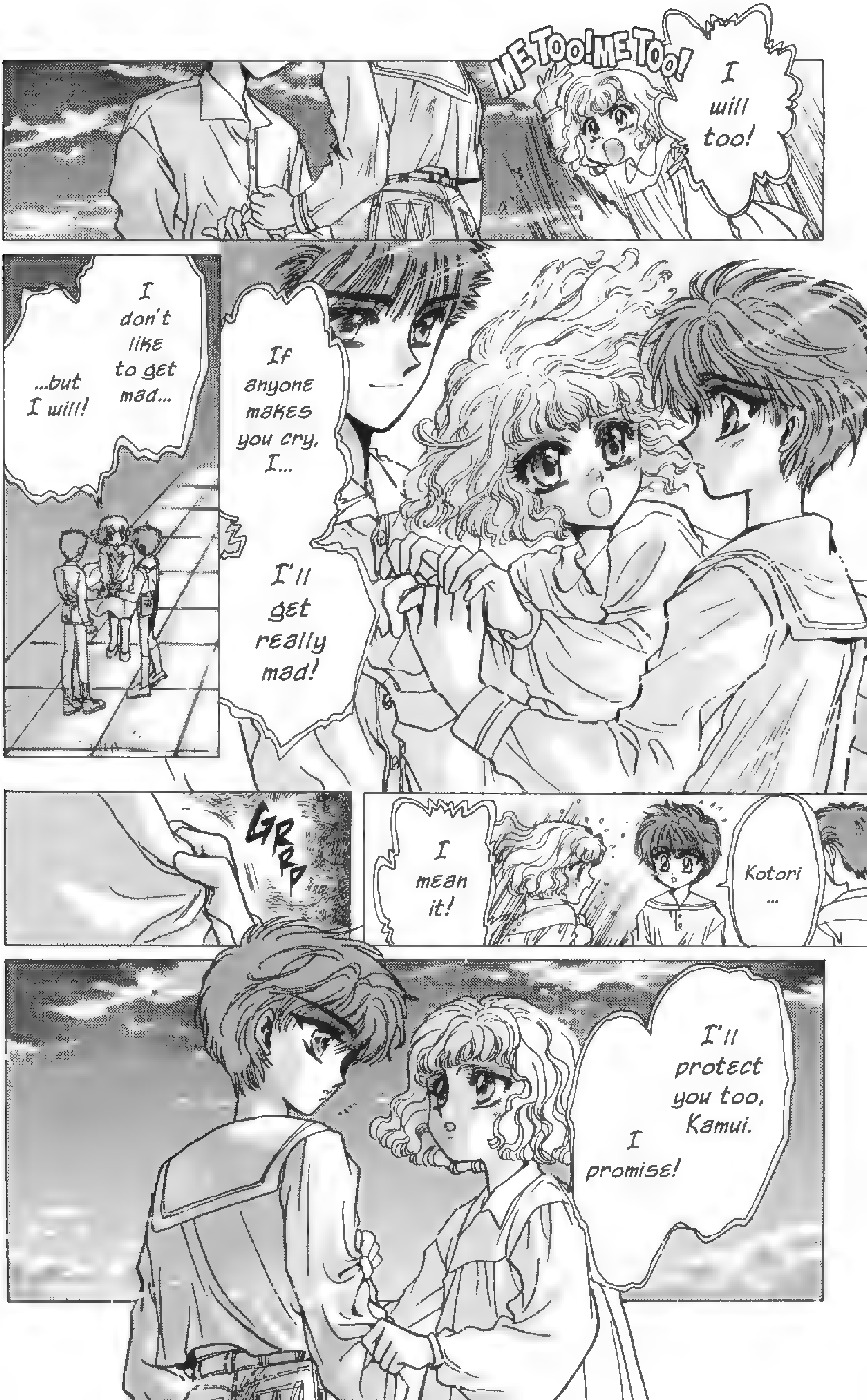

WHY DID YOU DISAPPEAR FROM TOKYO SIX YEARS AGO? WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING?
KAMUI ...
DO YOU NOT WANT TO TELL ME?

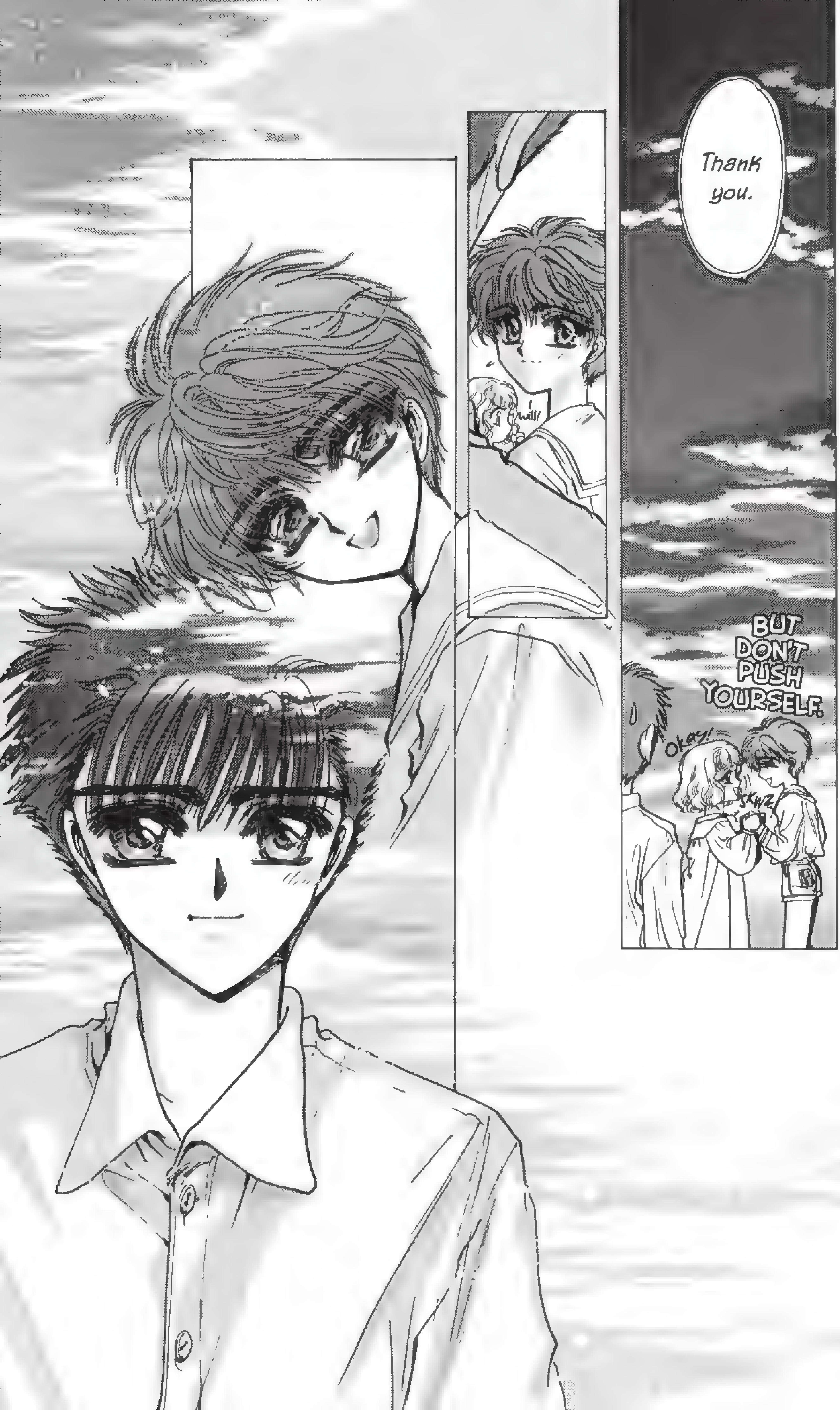

KAMUI.
DO YOU REMEMBER?
HOW WE USED TO PLAY IN THE GARDENS AROUND THE SHRINE.
DO YOU...
...REMEMBER HOW YOU TOLD KOTORI THAT YOU WOULD BE HER BRIDE?

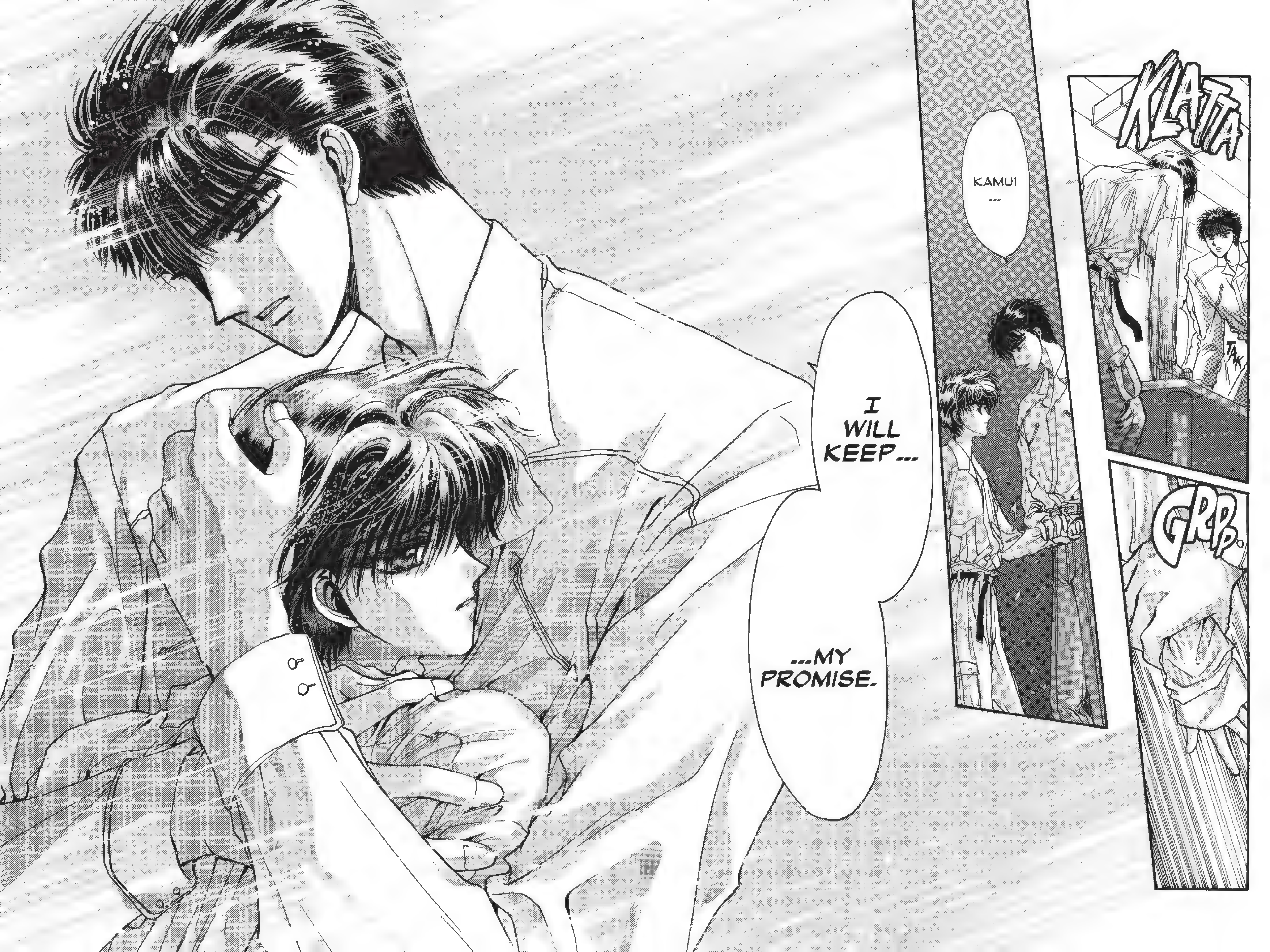

THAT DAY YOU MADE A PROMISE TO ME...
...THAT YOU WOULD NEVER MAKE HER CRY.
AND THAT DAY I MADE MY OWN PROMISE TO YOU.

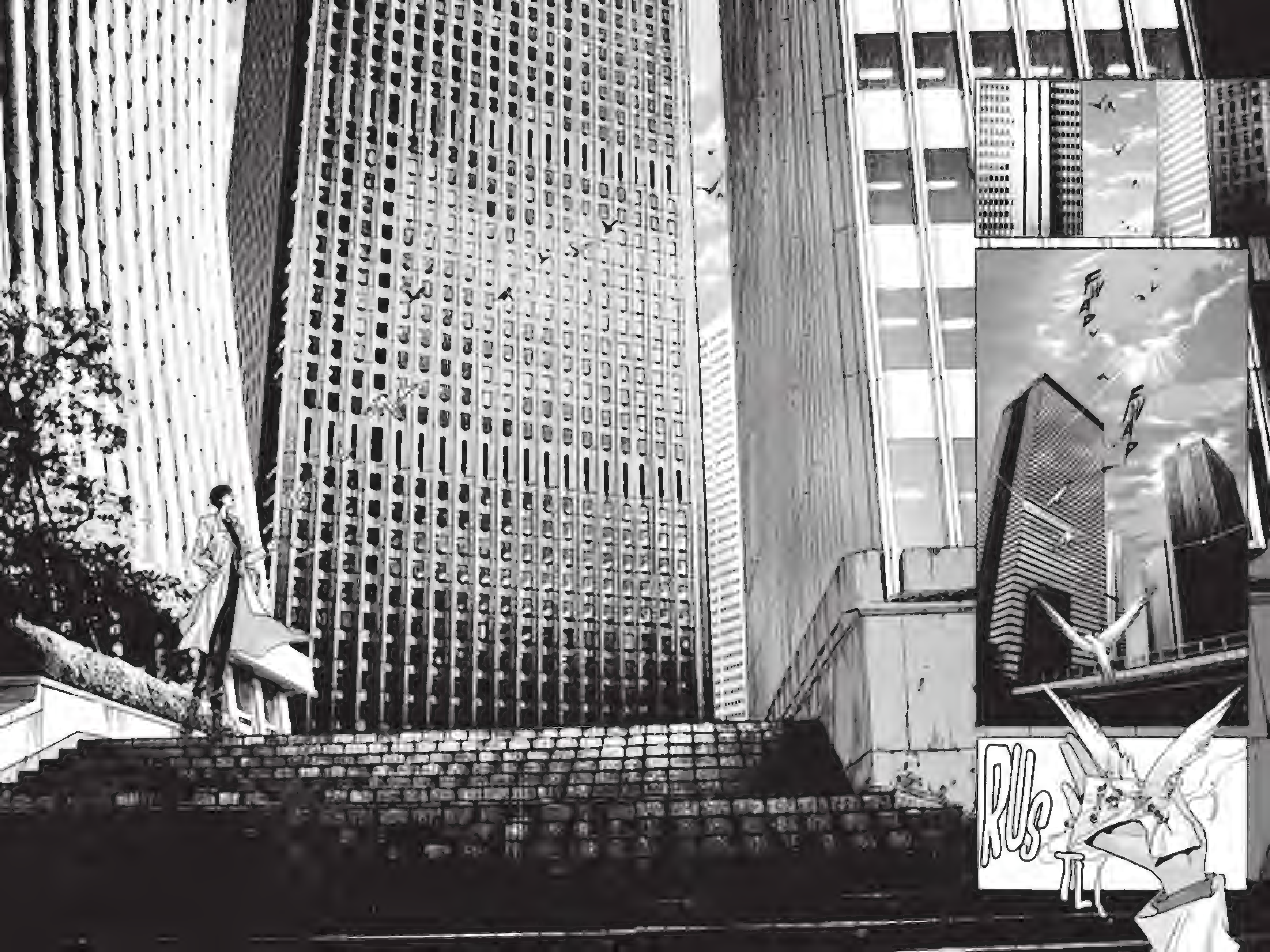

I promise, Fuma.
I'll never make her cry.
I promise.
Then I'll...
....make my own promise.
If you protect Kotori, then...
I WILL PROTECT YOU.

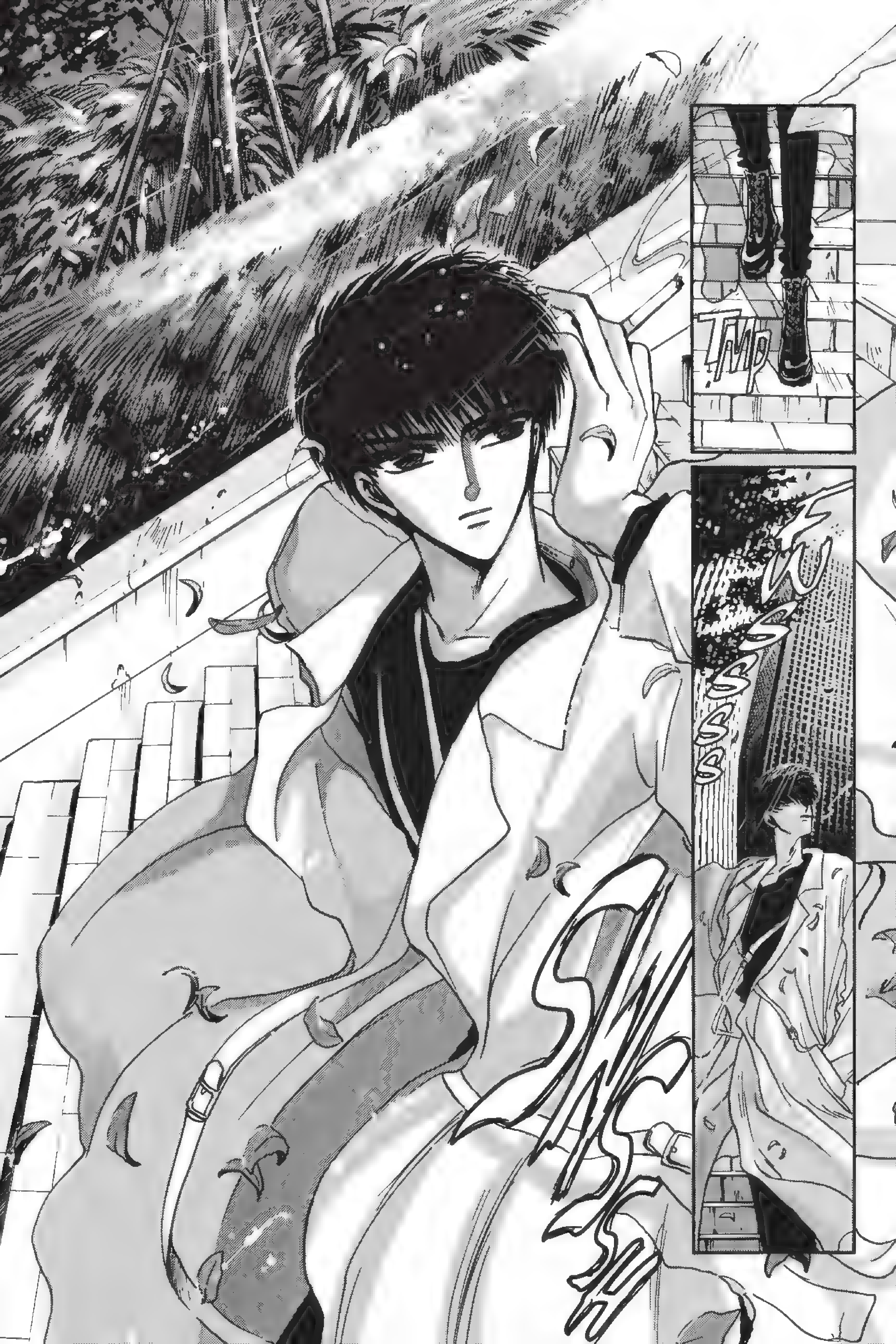

If anyone ever makes you cry...
...I'll protect you from them.

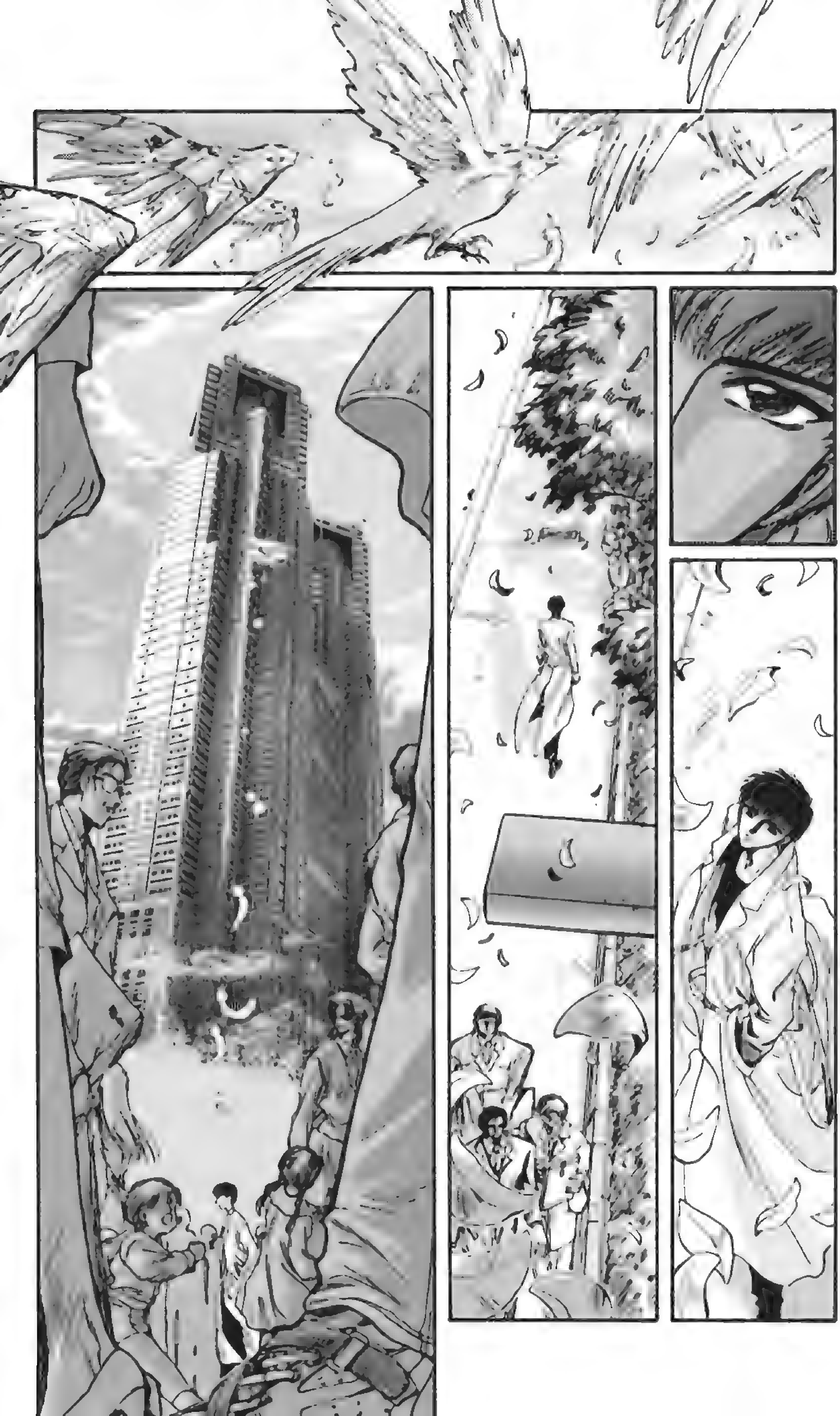

I will too!
ME TOO! ME TOO!
If anyone makes you cry, I...
I'll get really mad!
I don't like to get mad...
...but I will!
Kotori...
I mean it!
GRRR
I'll protect you too, Kamui.
I promise!


Thank you.
BUT DON'T PUSH YOURSELF.
Okay!
SKWZ
I will!

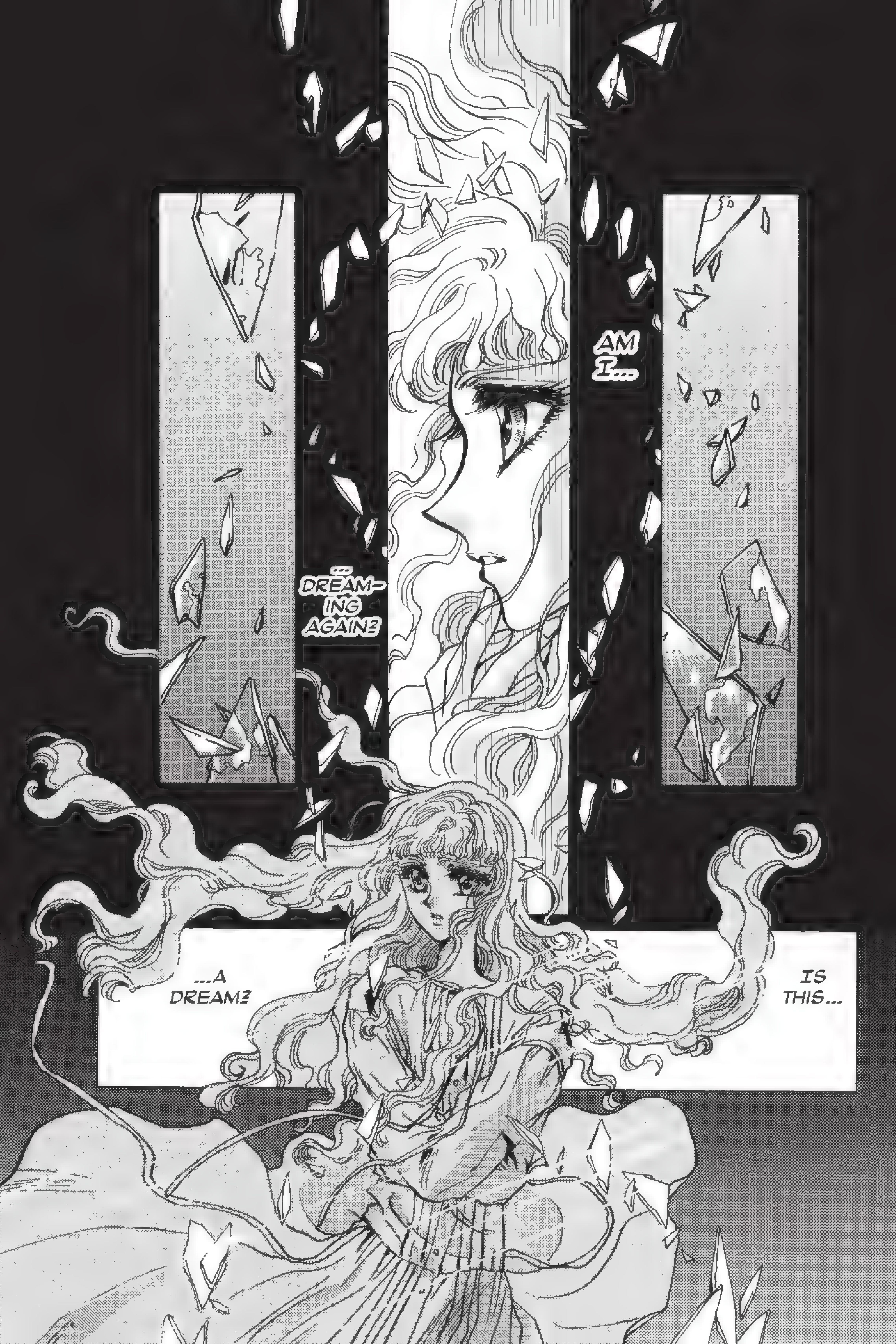

KLATTA
TAK
GRPP
KAMUI ...
I WILL KEEP...
...MY PROMISE.

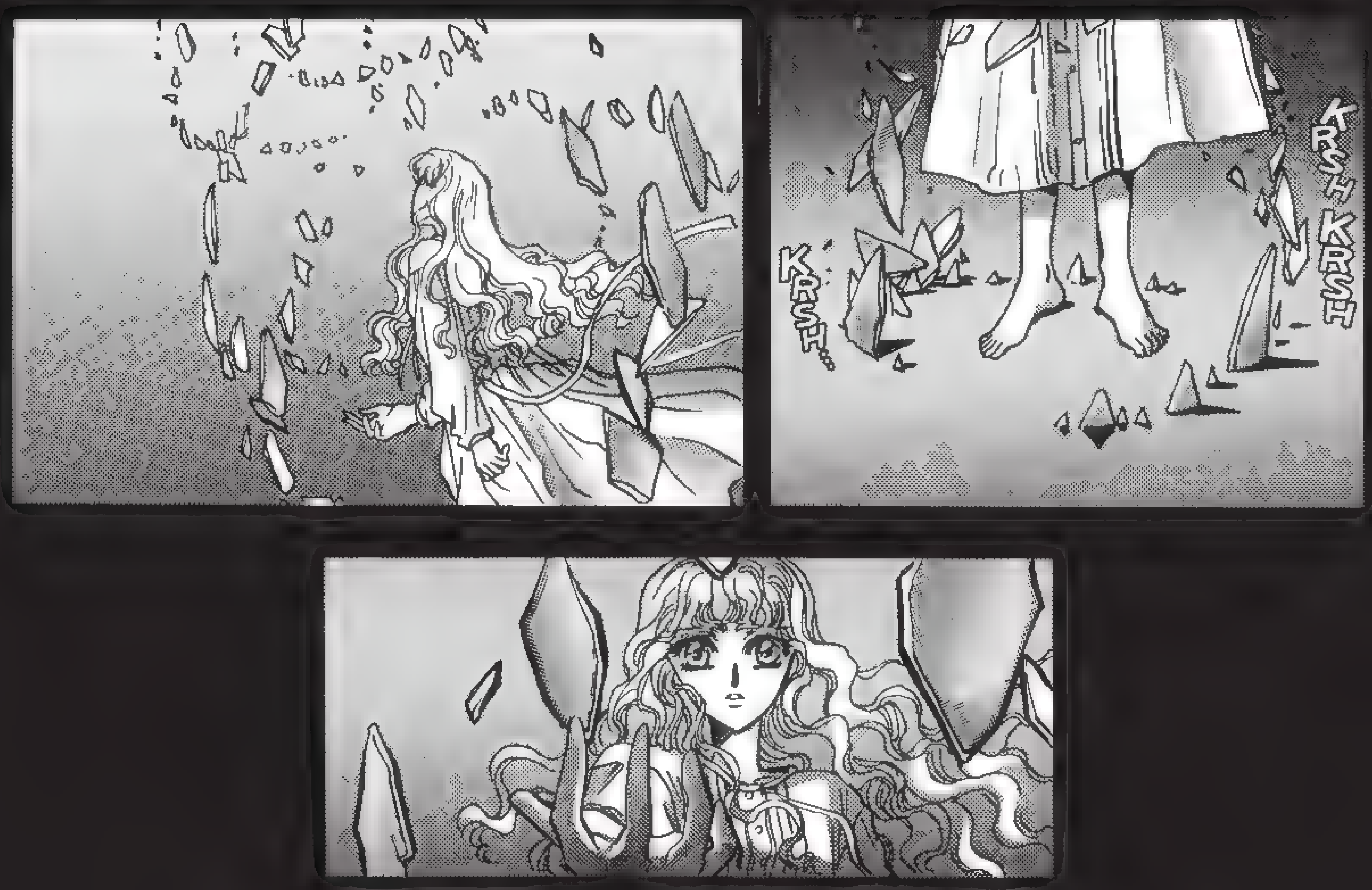

FWAP
FWAP
RUSTL


TMP
WUSSSS
SHAH

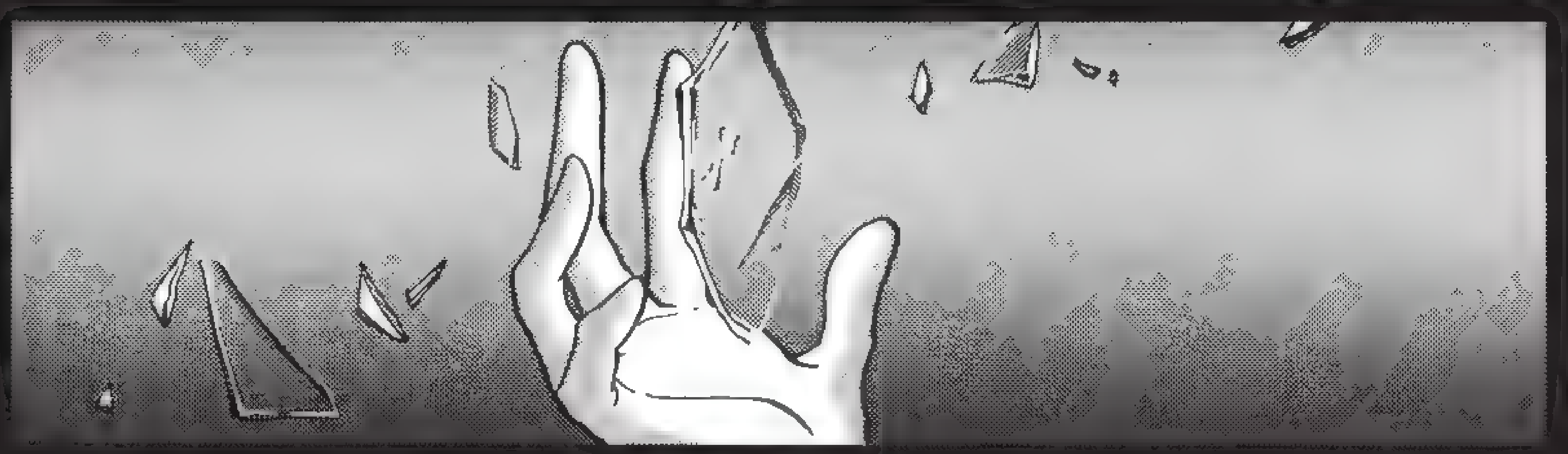


WHERE AM I...?

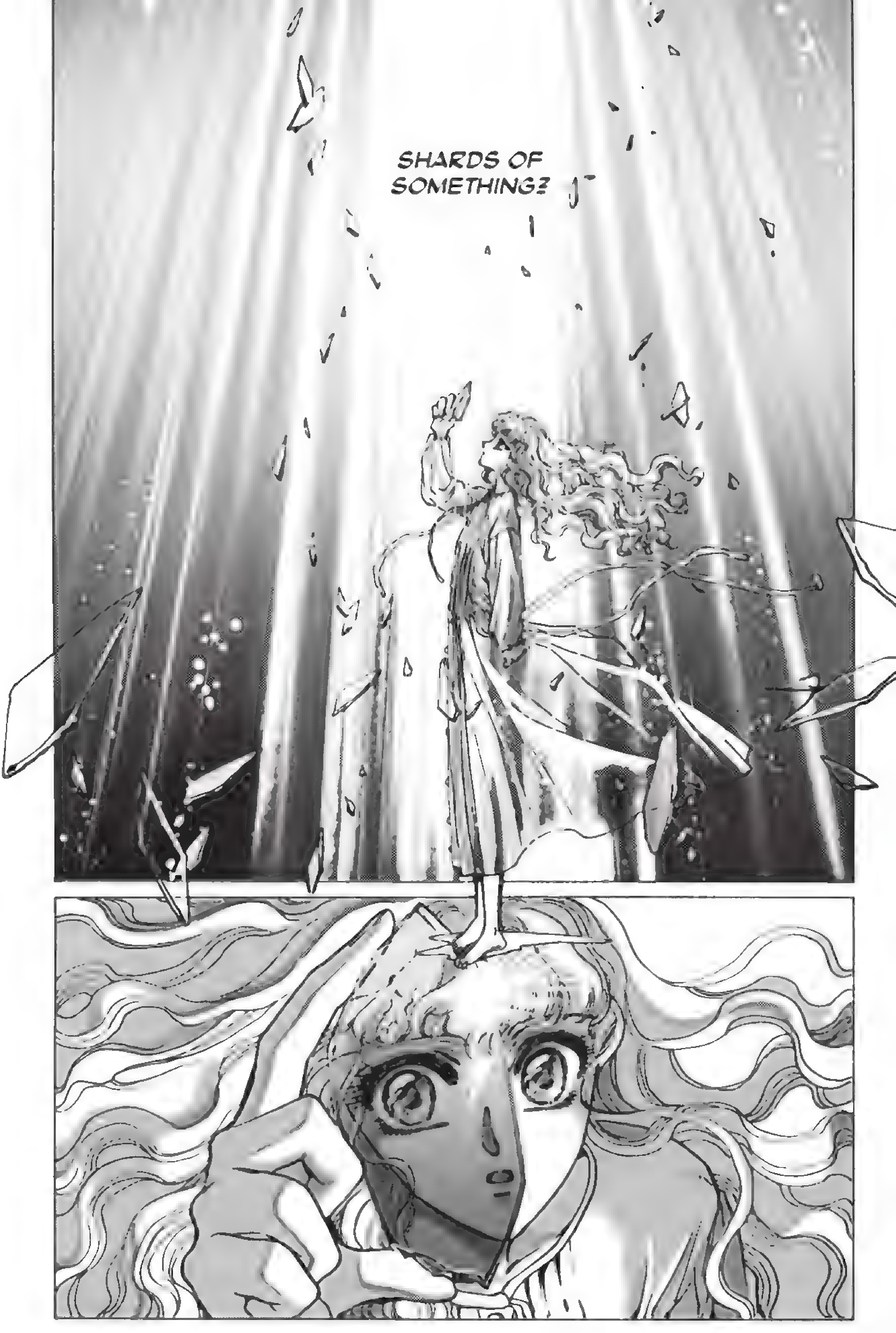

AM I...
...DREAMING AGAIN?
IS THIS...
...A DREAM?

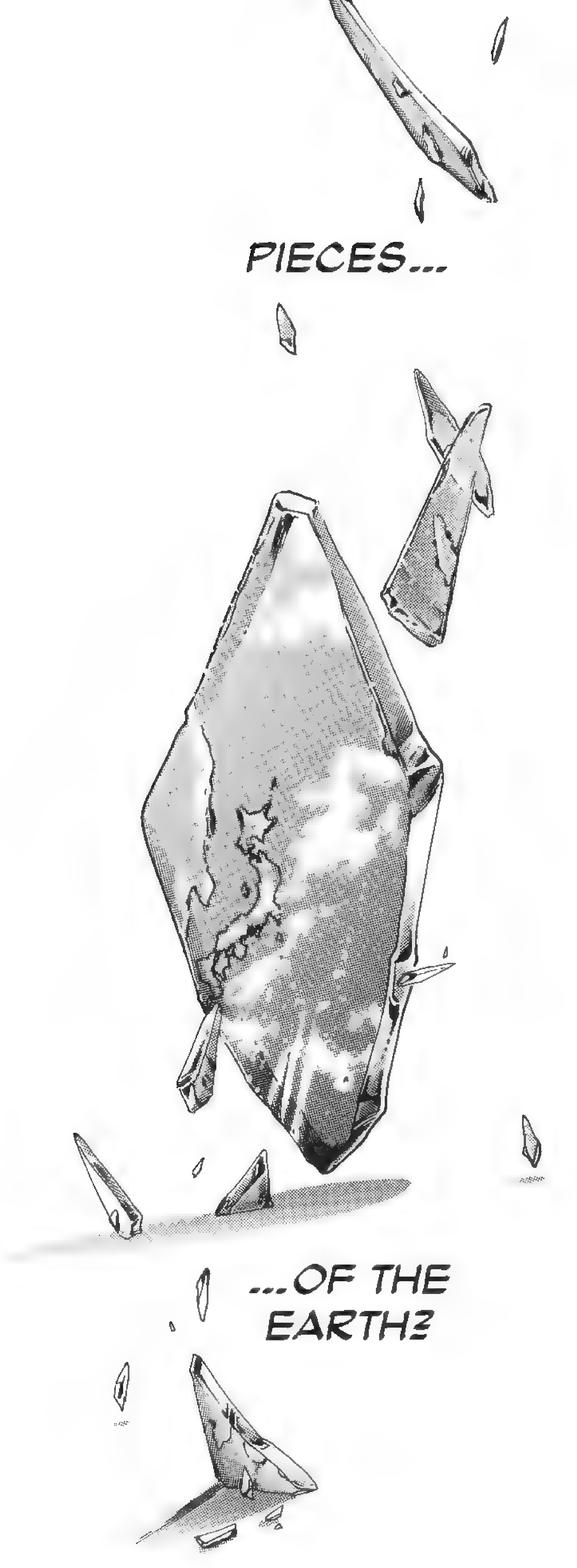


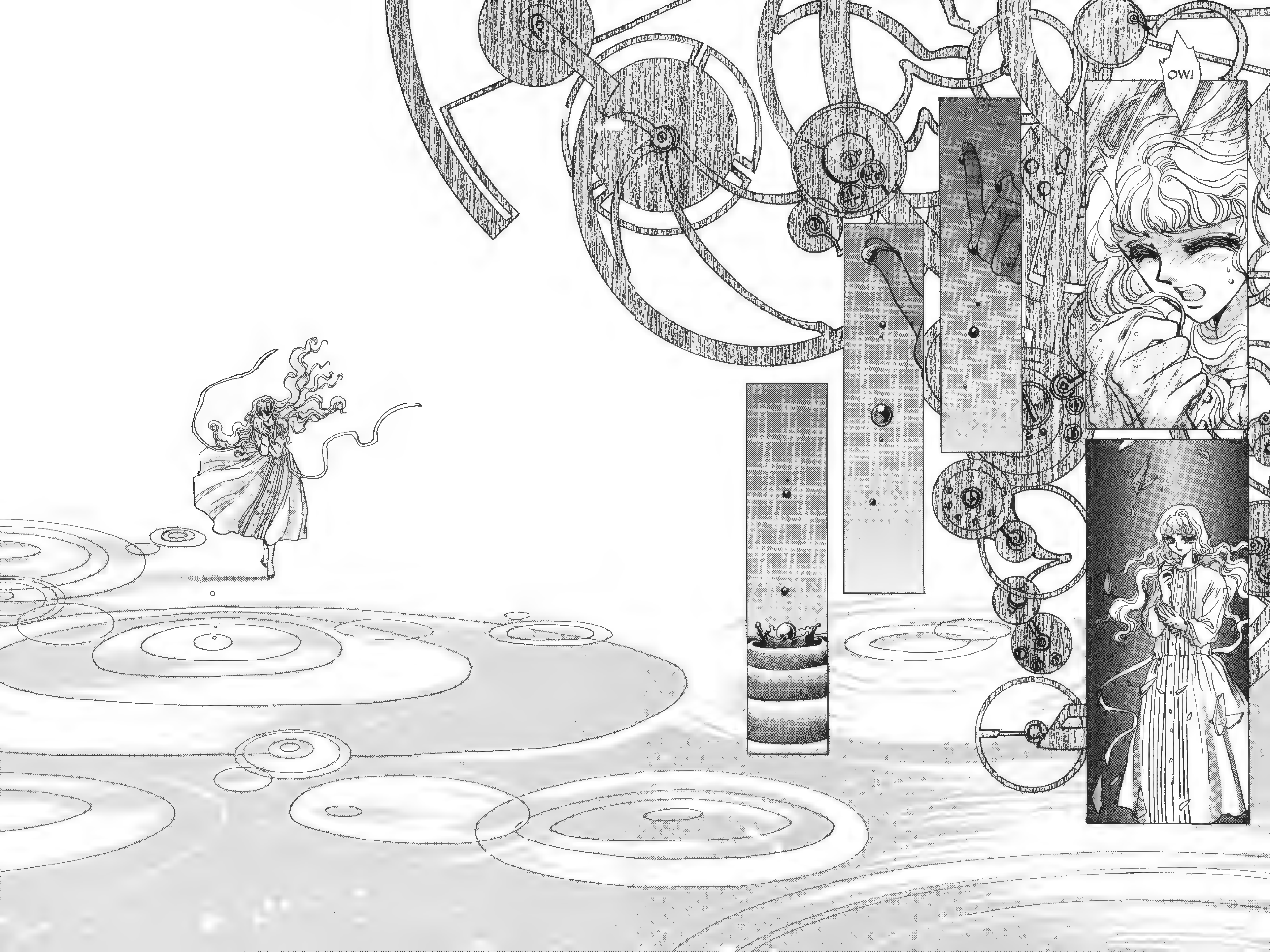
KRSH KRSH
KRSH
WHAT...

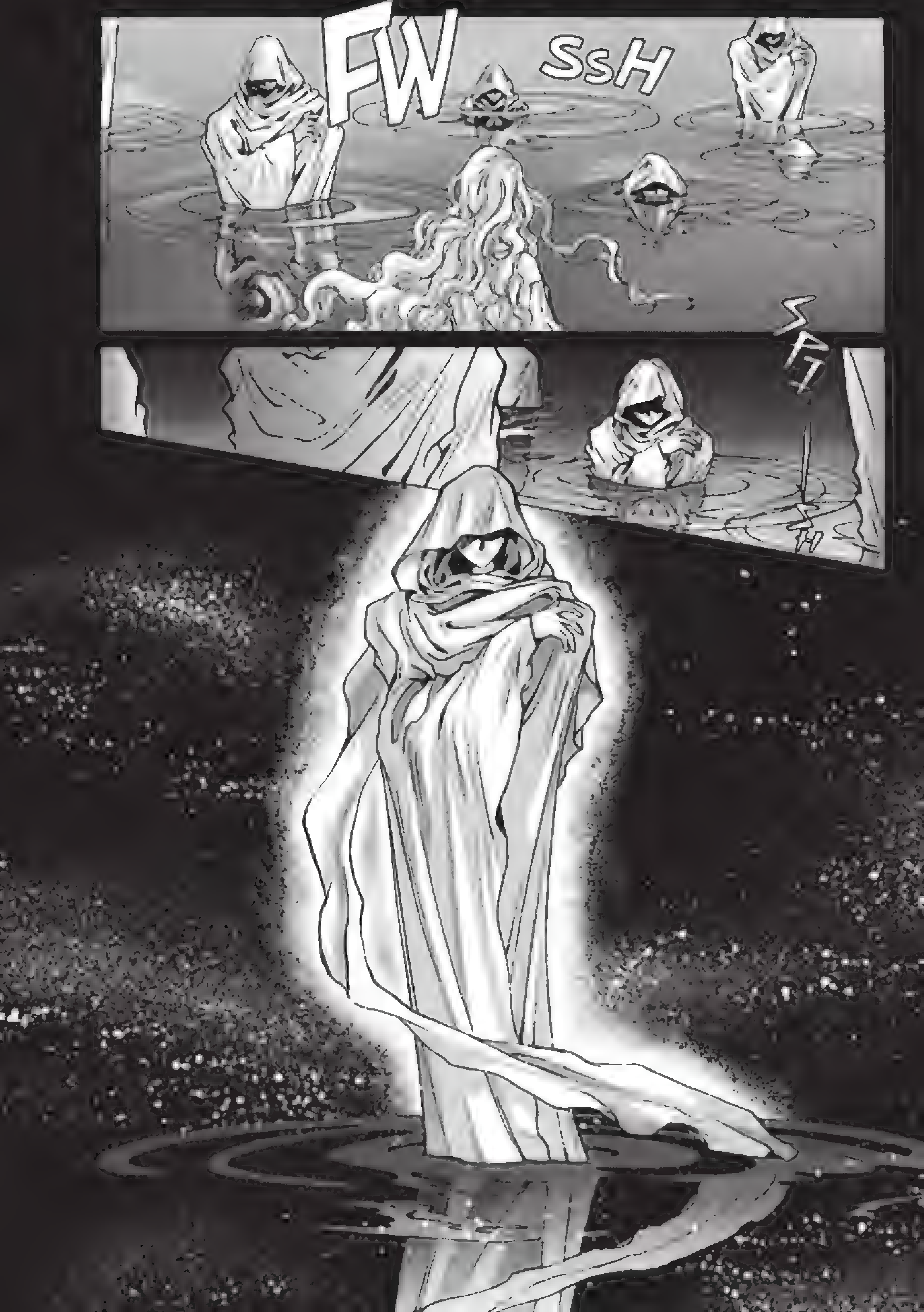


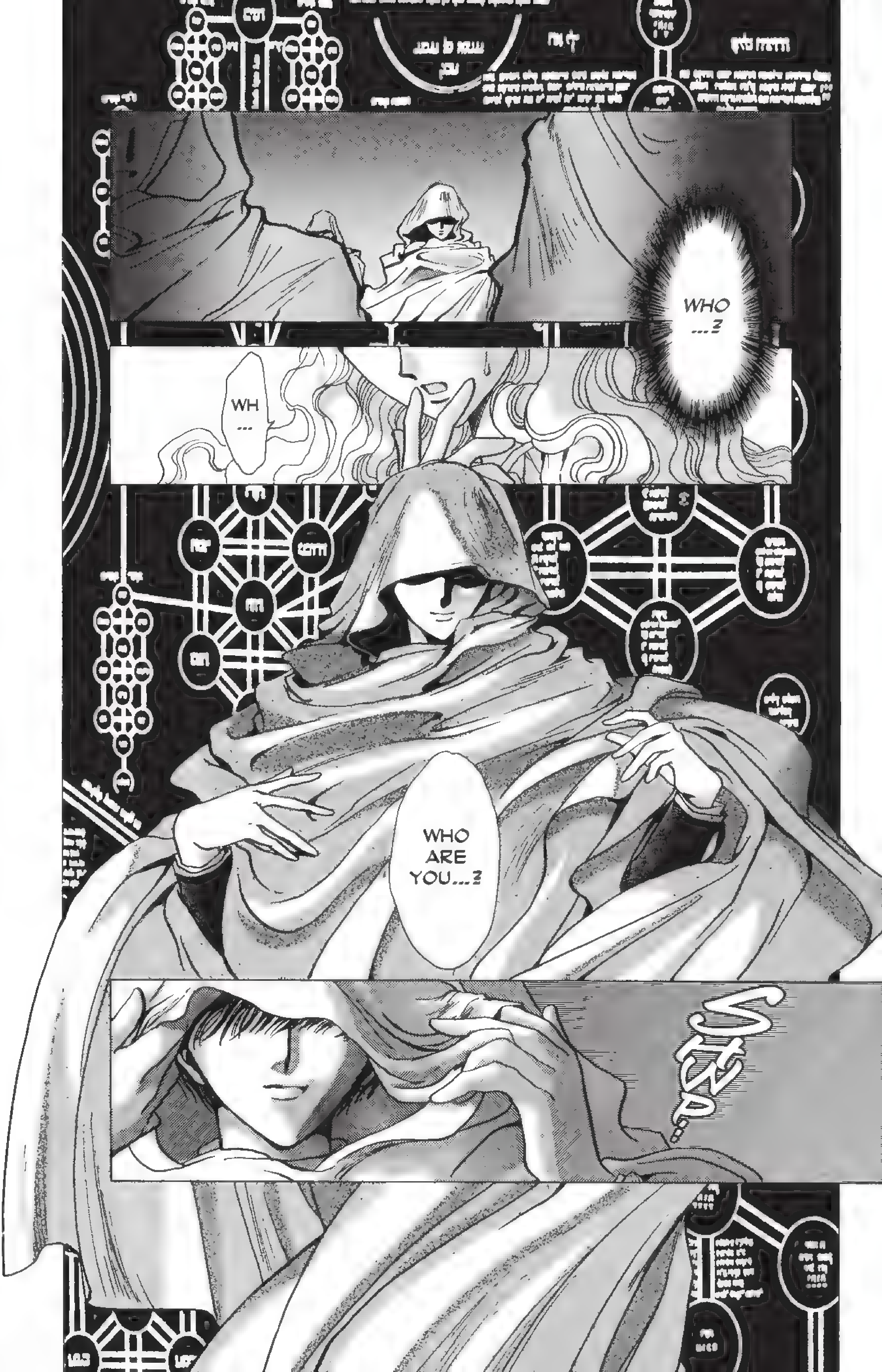
...IS THIS?

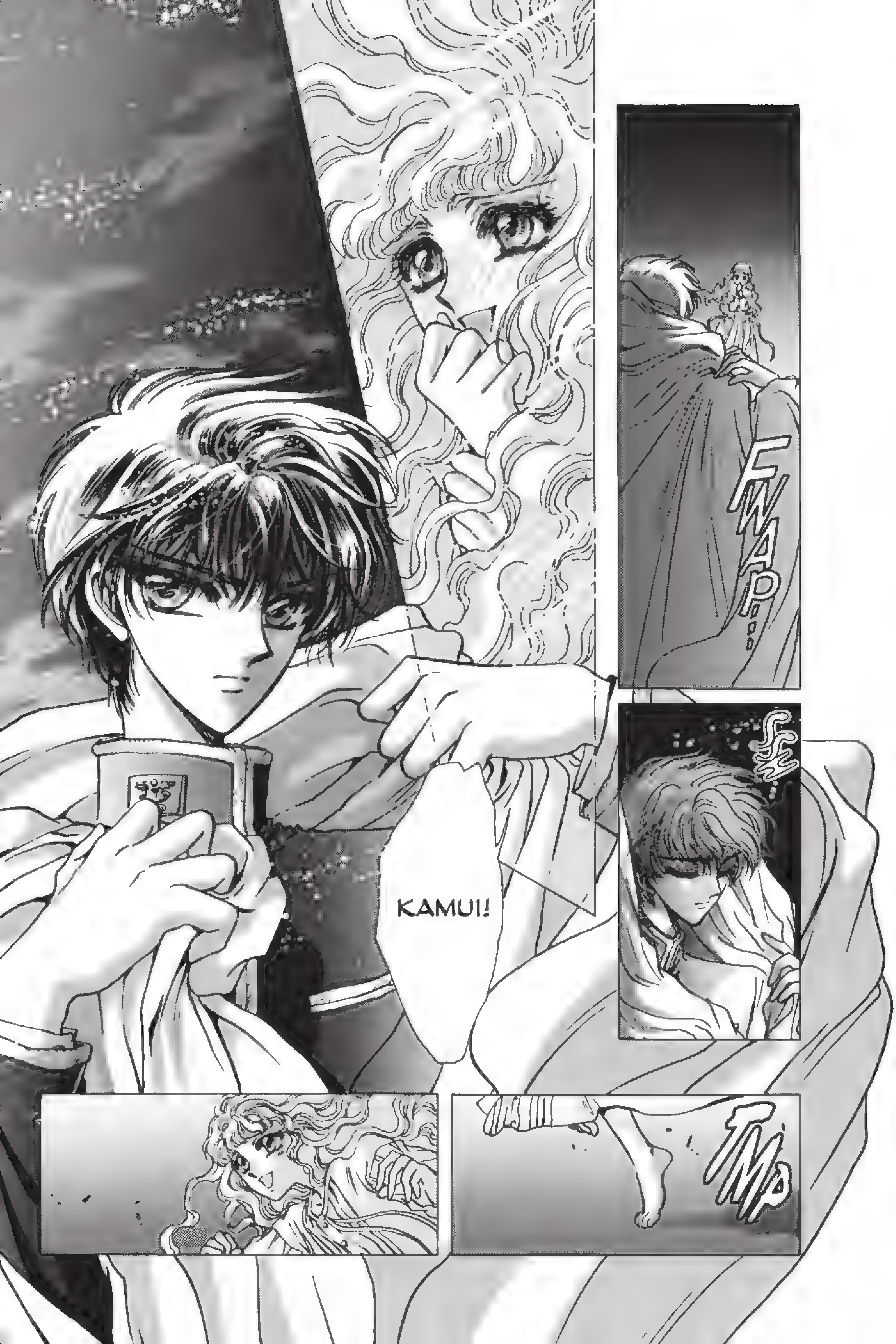

SHARDS OF SOMETHING?

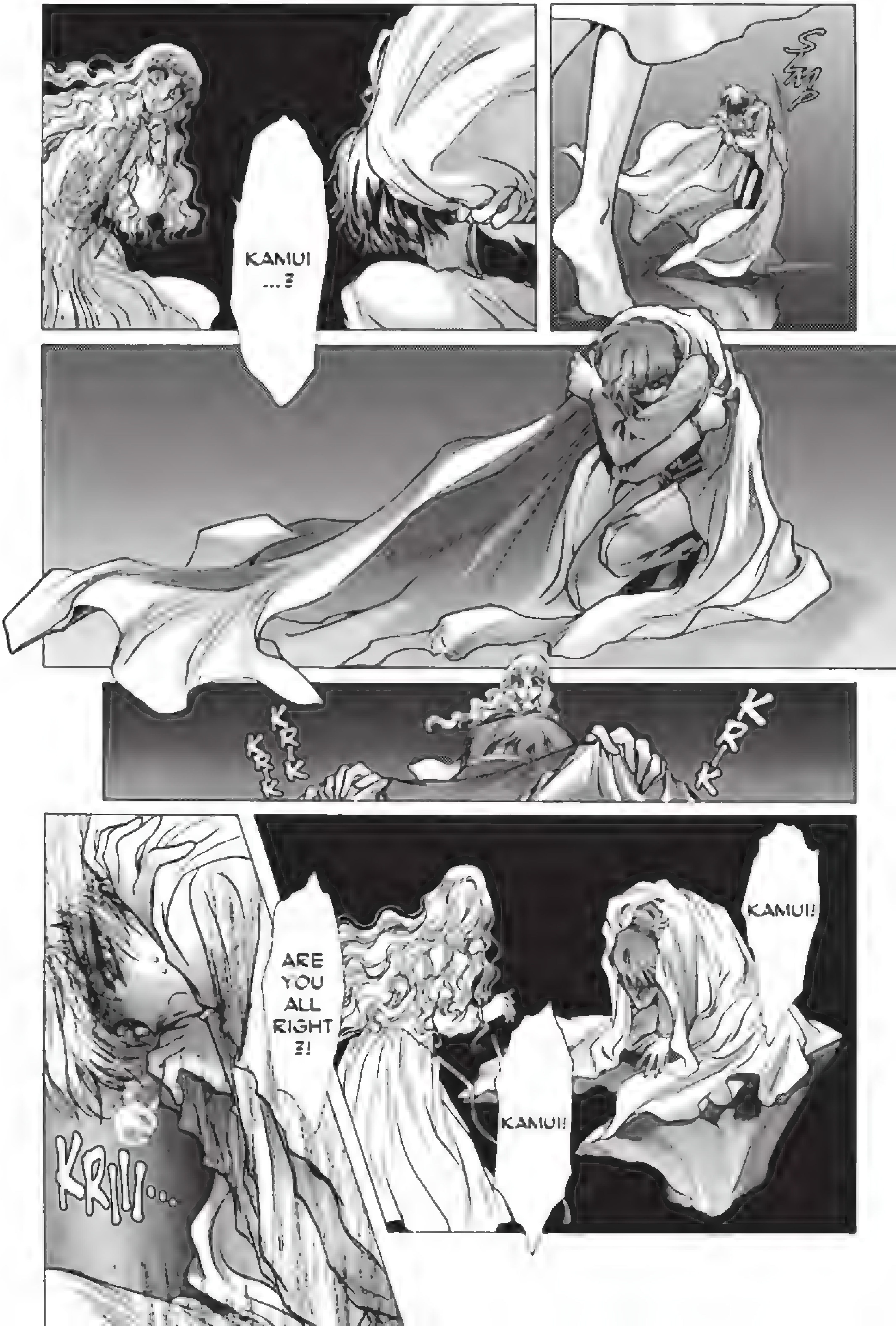

PIECES...
...OF THE EARTH?

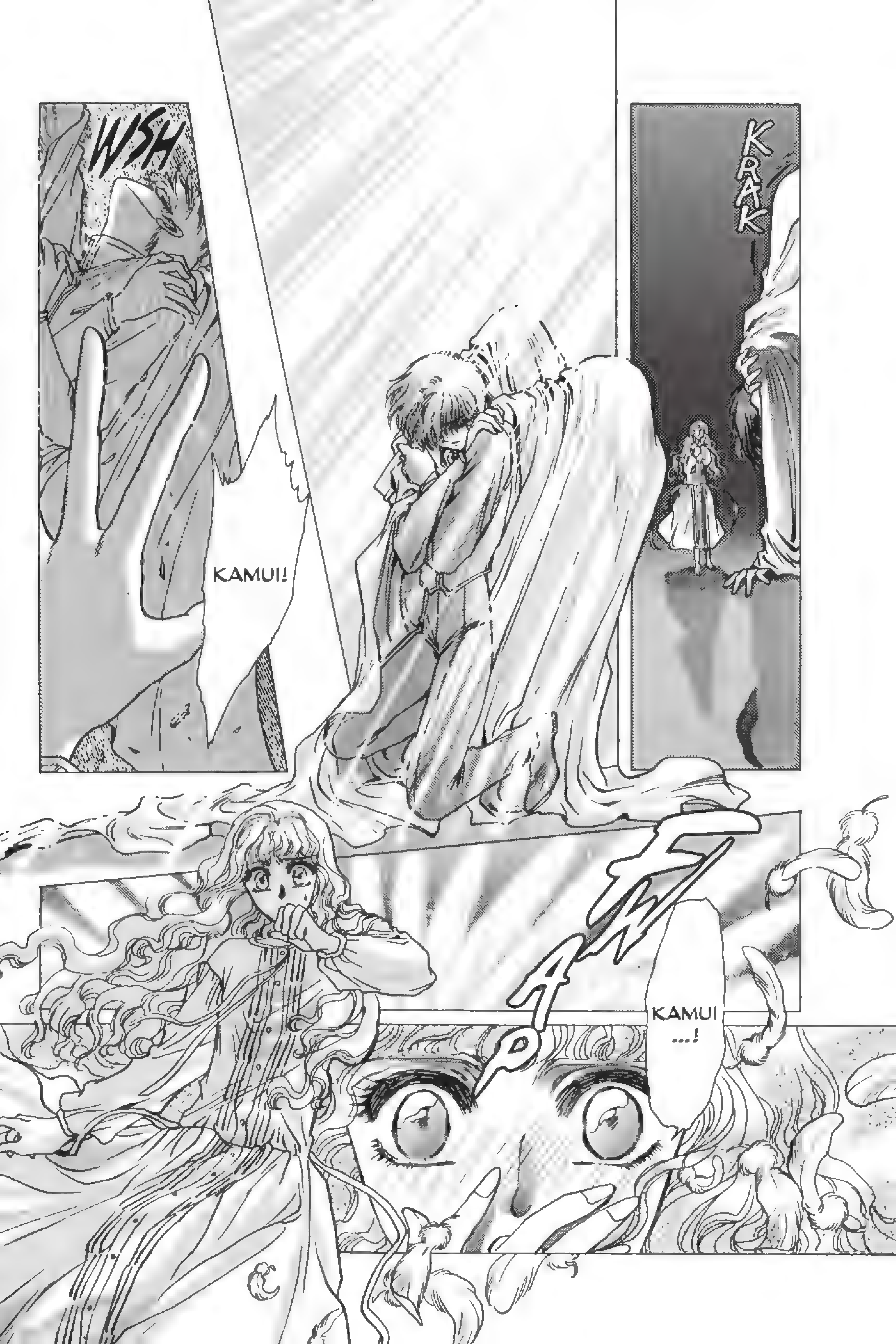

OW!

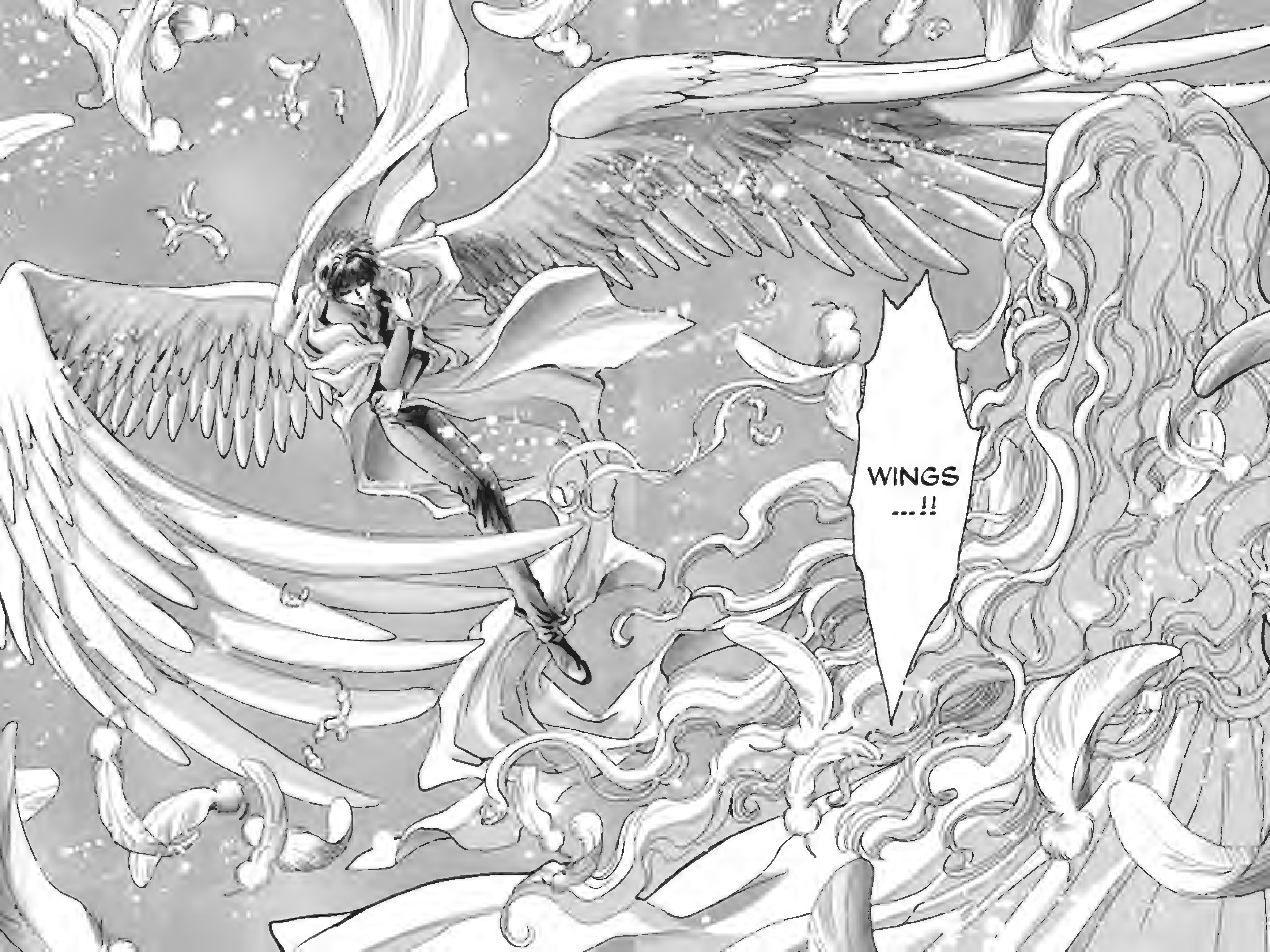

FW
SsH
SPT
SH

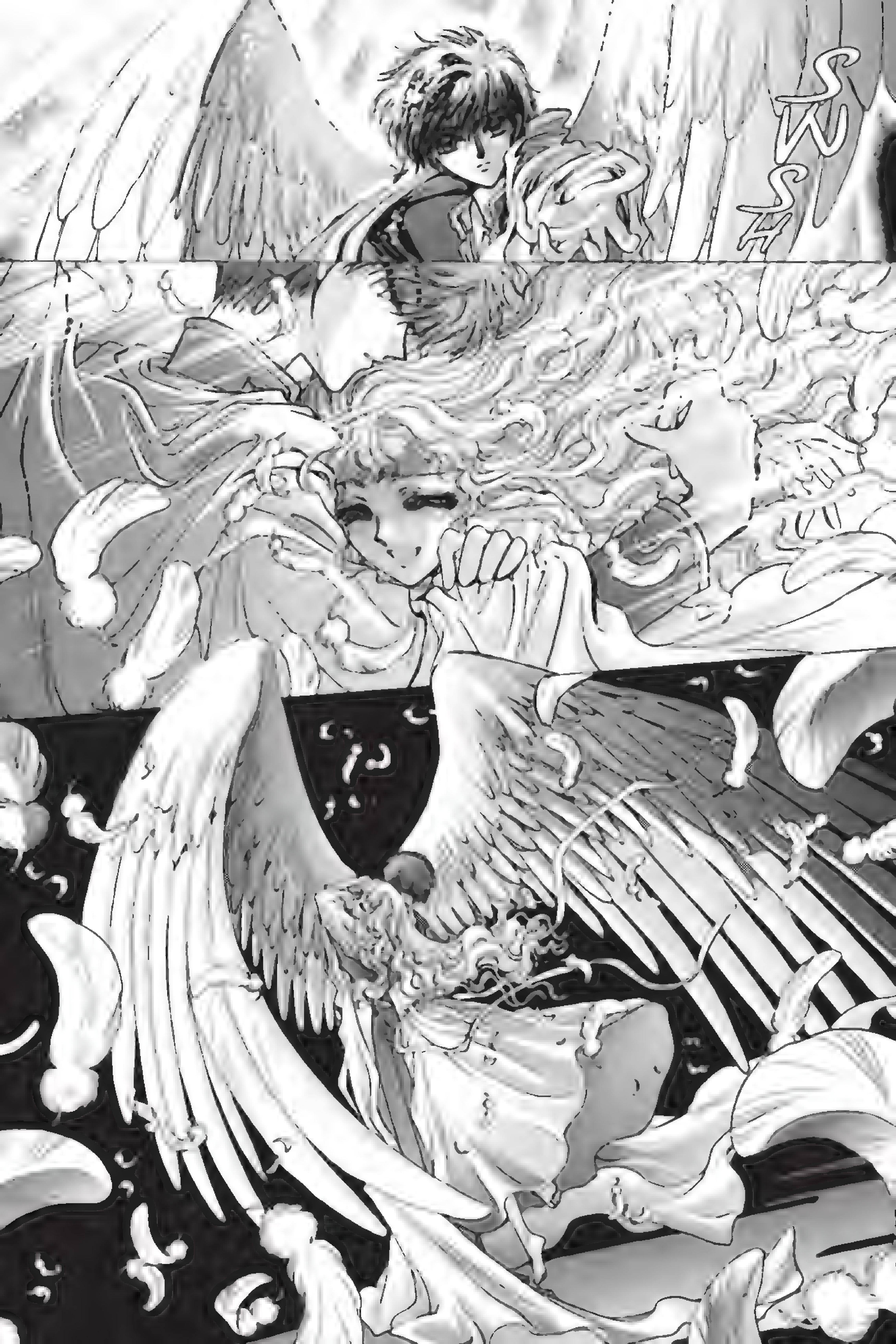

WHO ...?
WH ...
WHO ARE YOU...?
SHA...

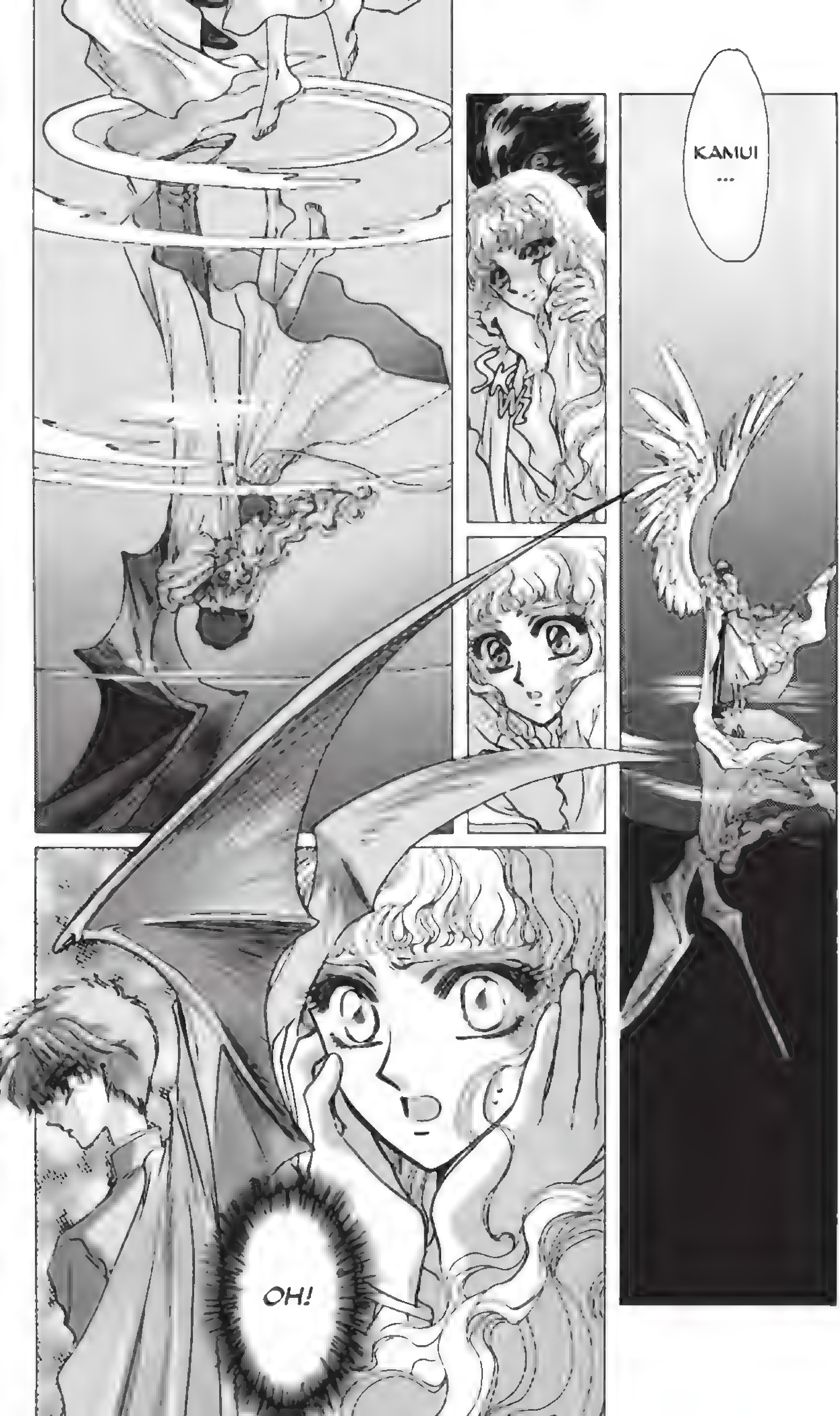

FWAP...
FSH
KAMUI!
TMP

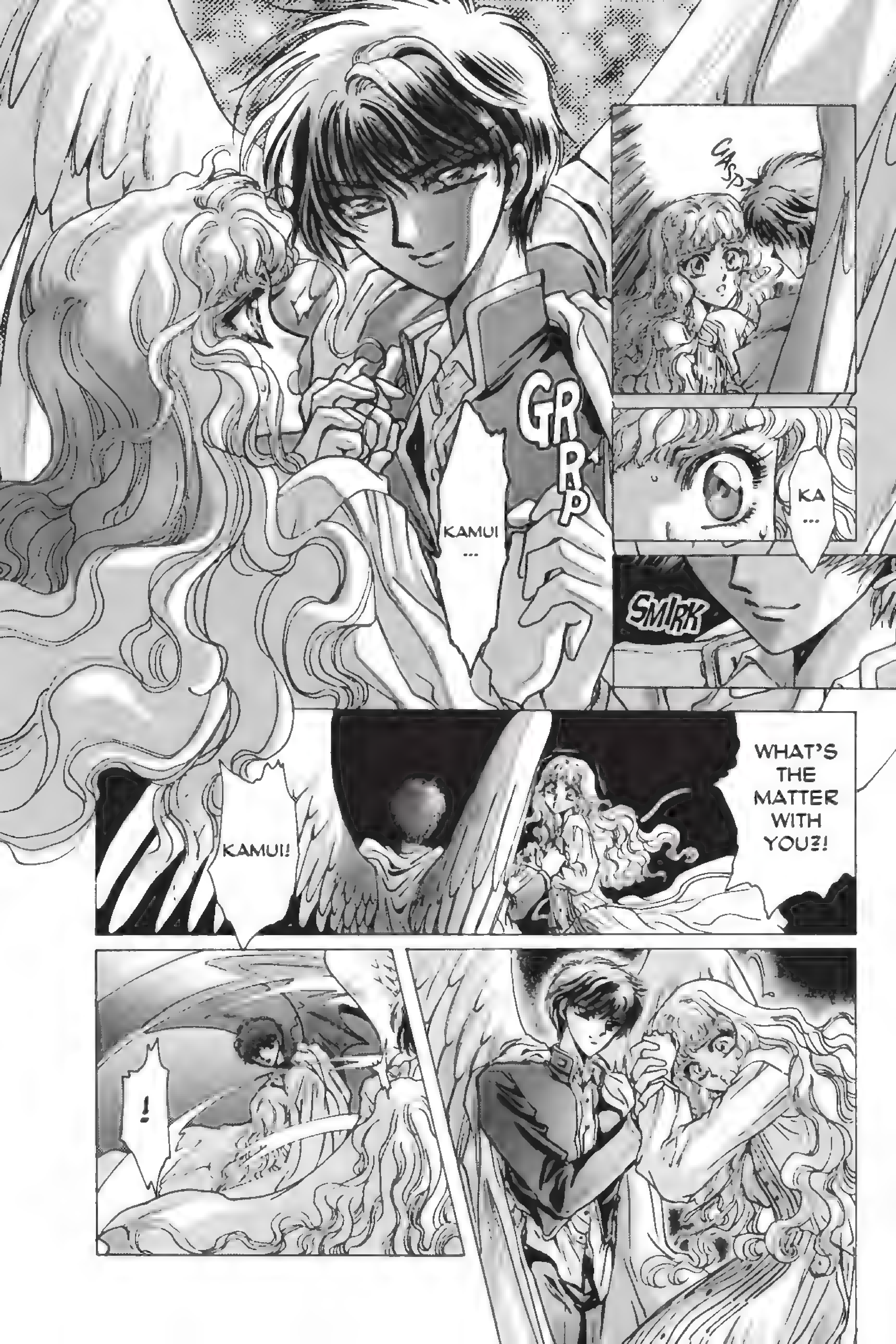

KAMUI ...?
KRK
KRIK KRIK
KAMUI!
KAMUI!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
KRIII...

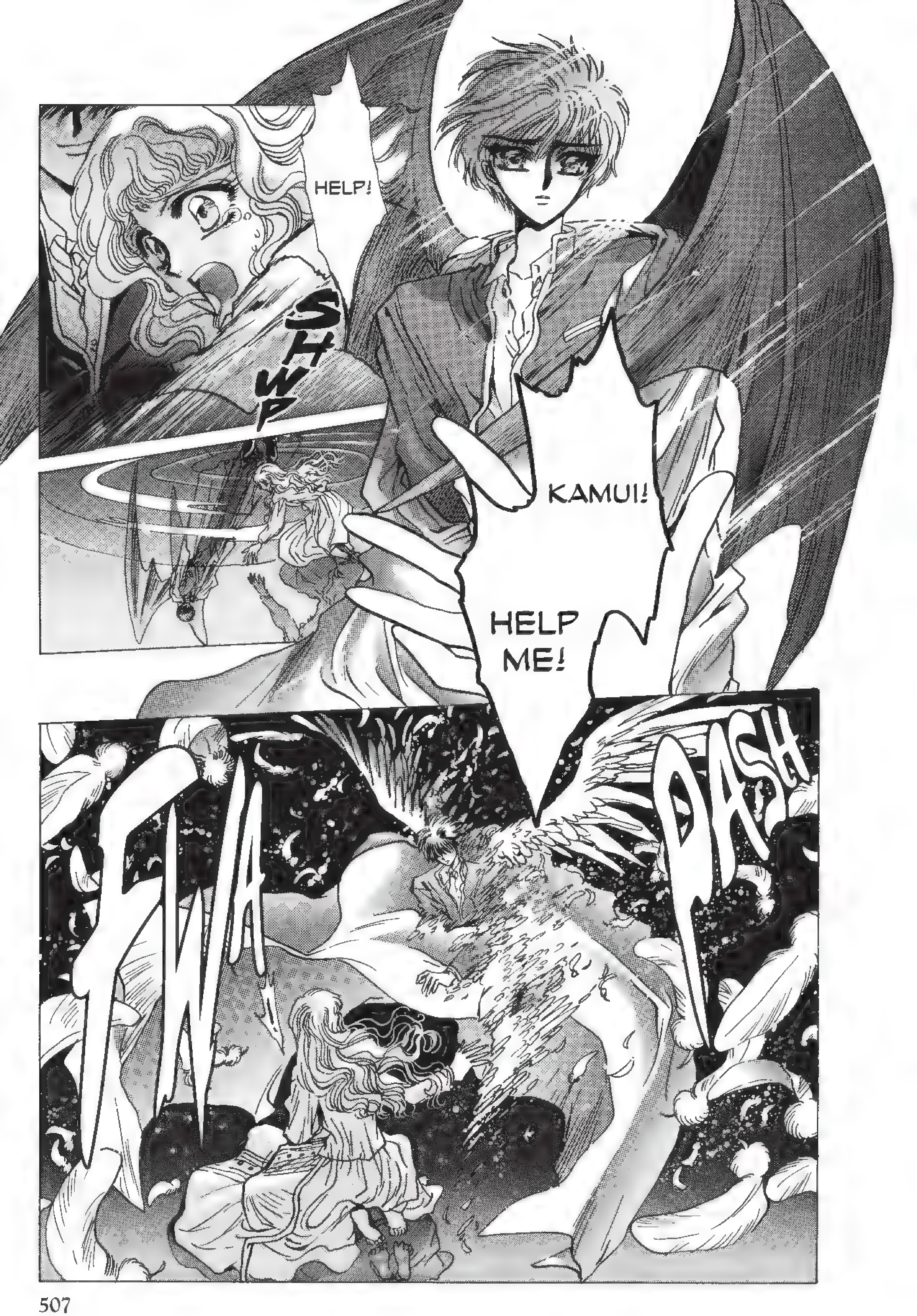

KRAK
WISH
KAMUI!
FWAP
KAMUI ...!

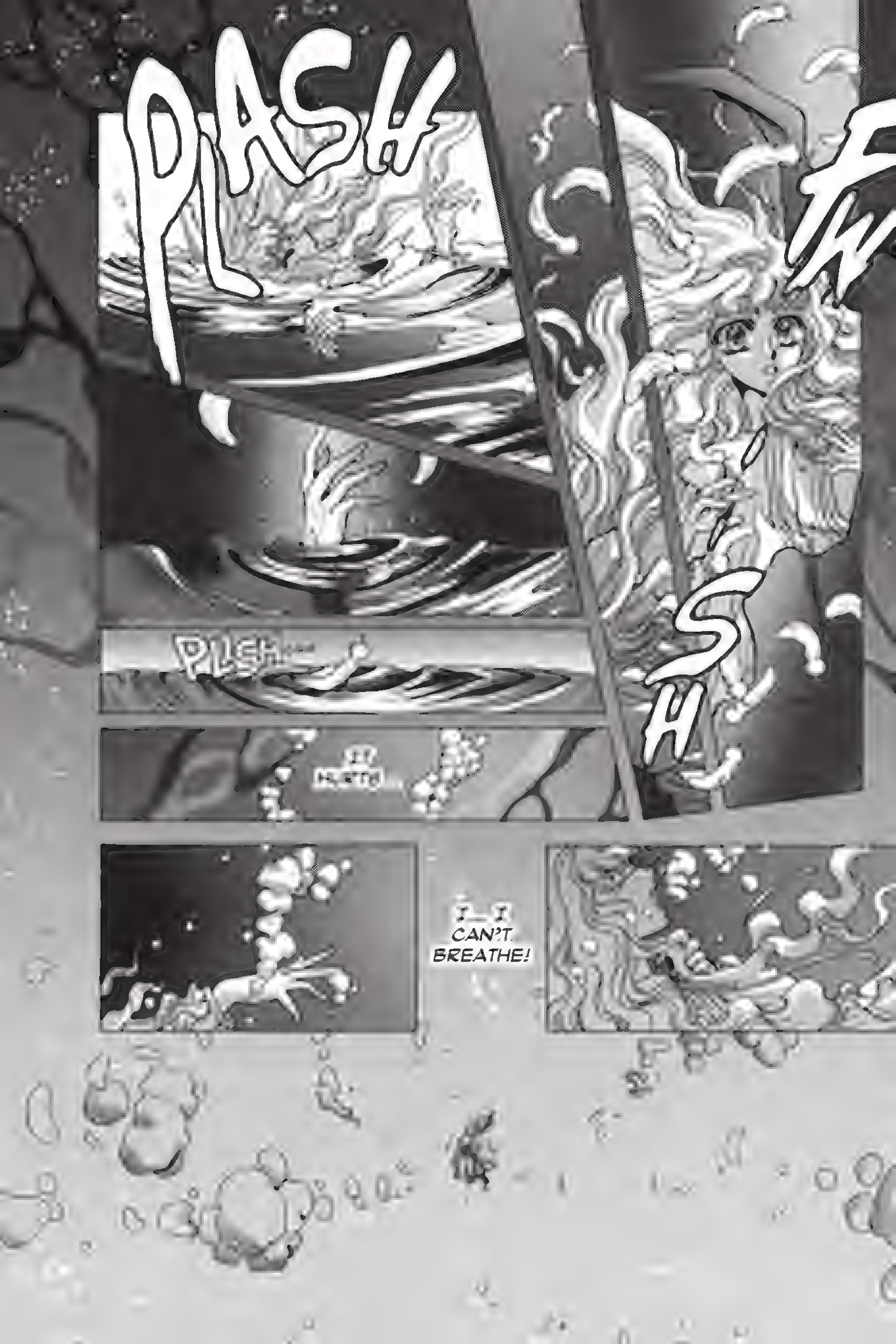

WINGS
...!!

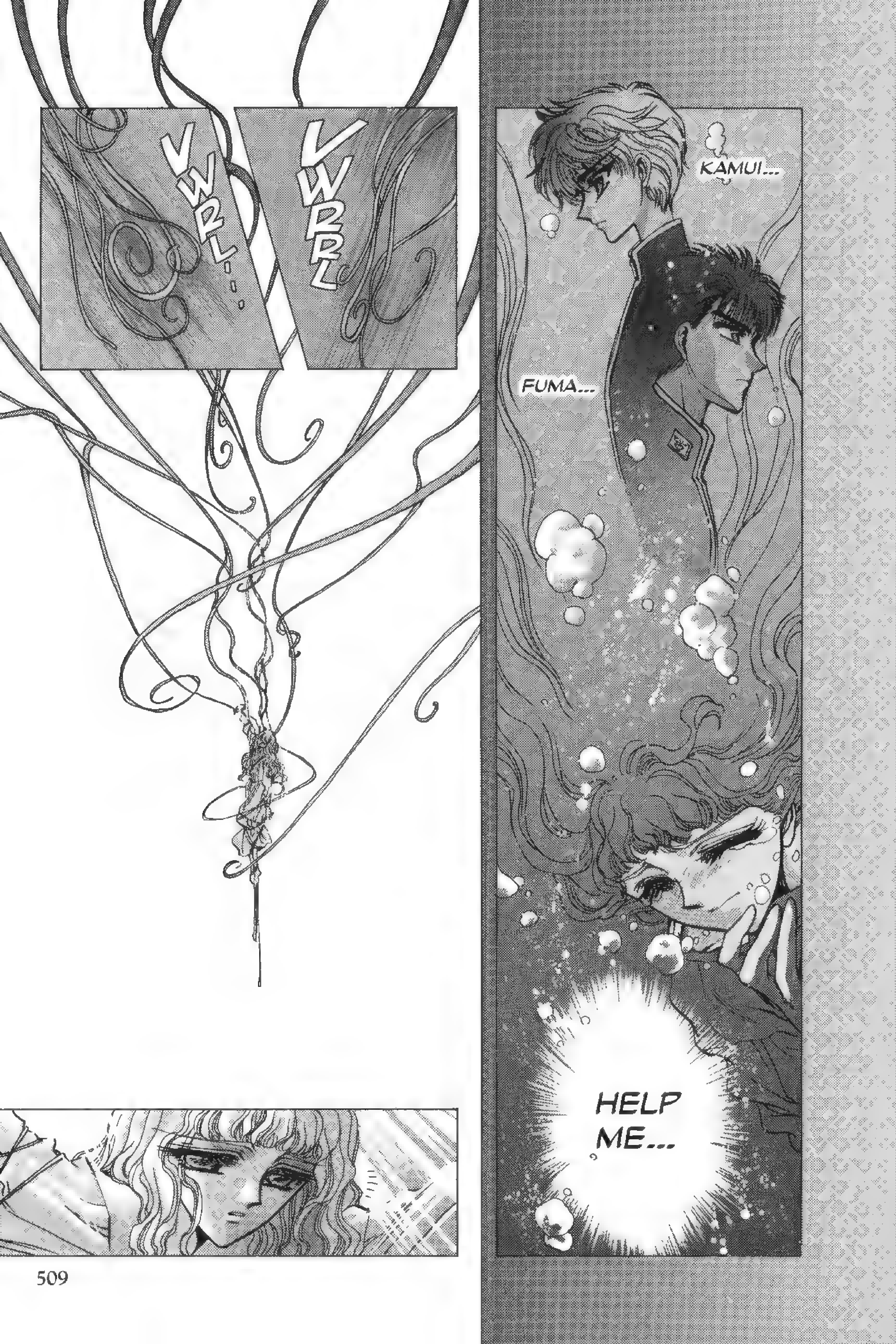

SWSH

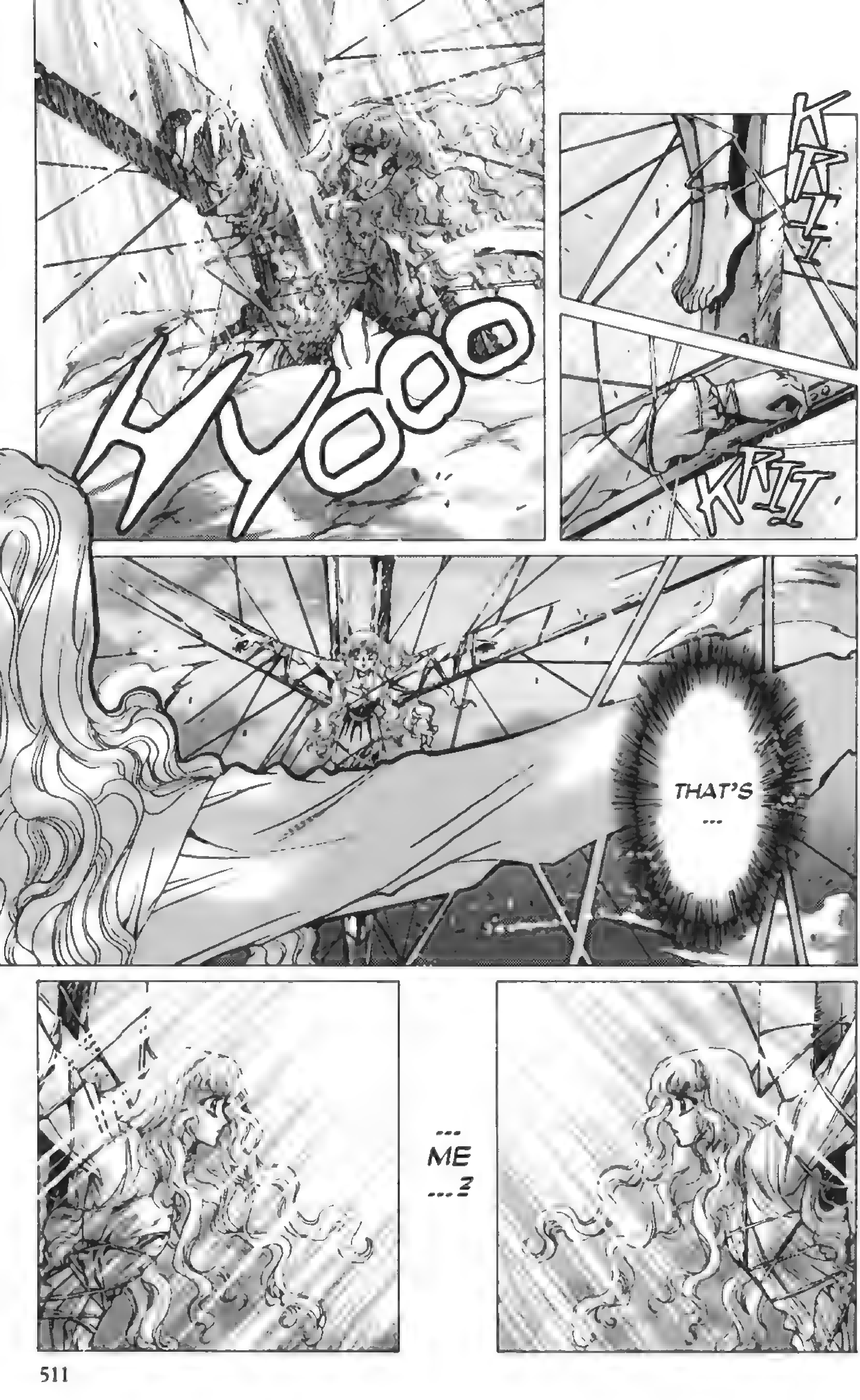

KAMUI ...
SKWZ
OH!

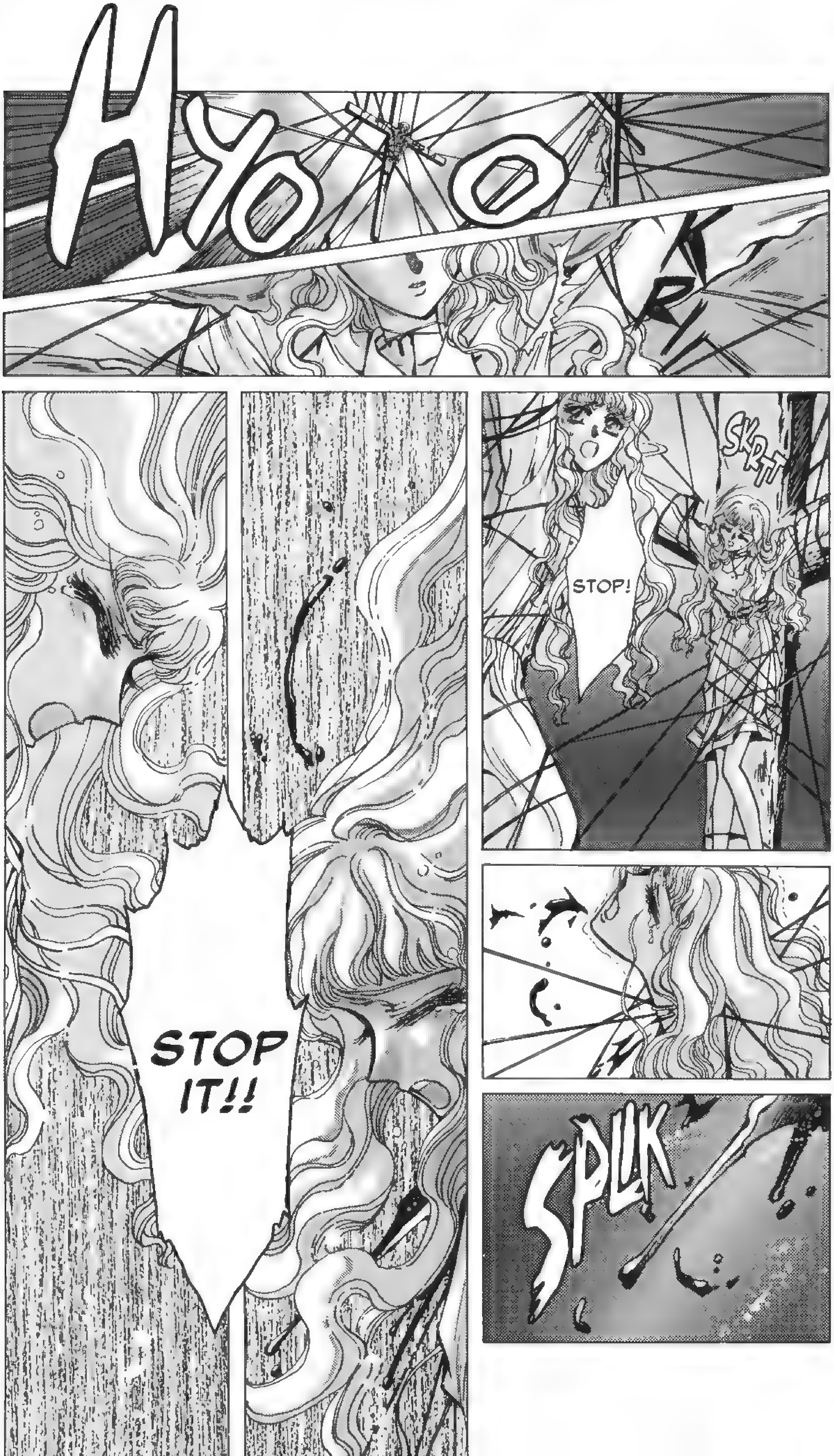

GASP
KA…
SMIRK
GRRP
KAMUI…
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?!
KAMUI!
!

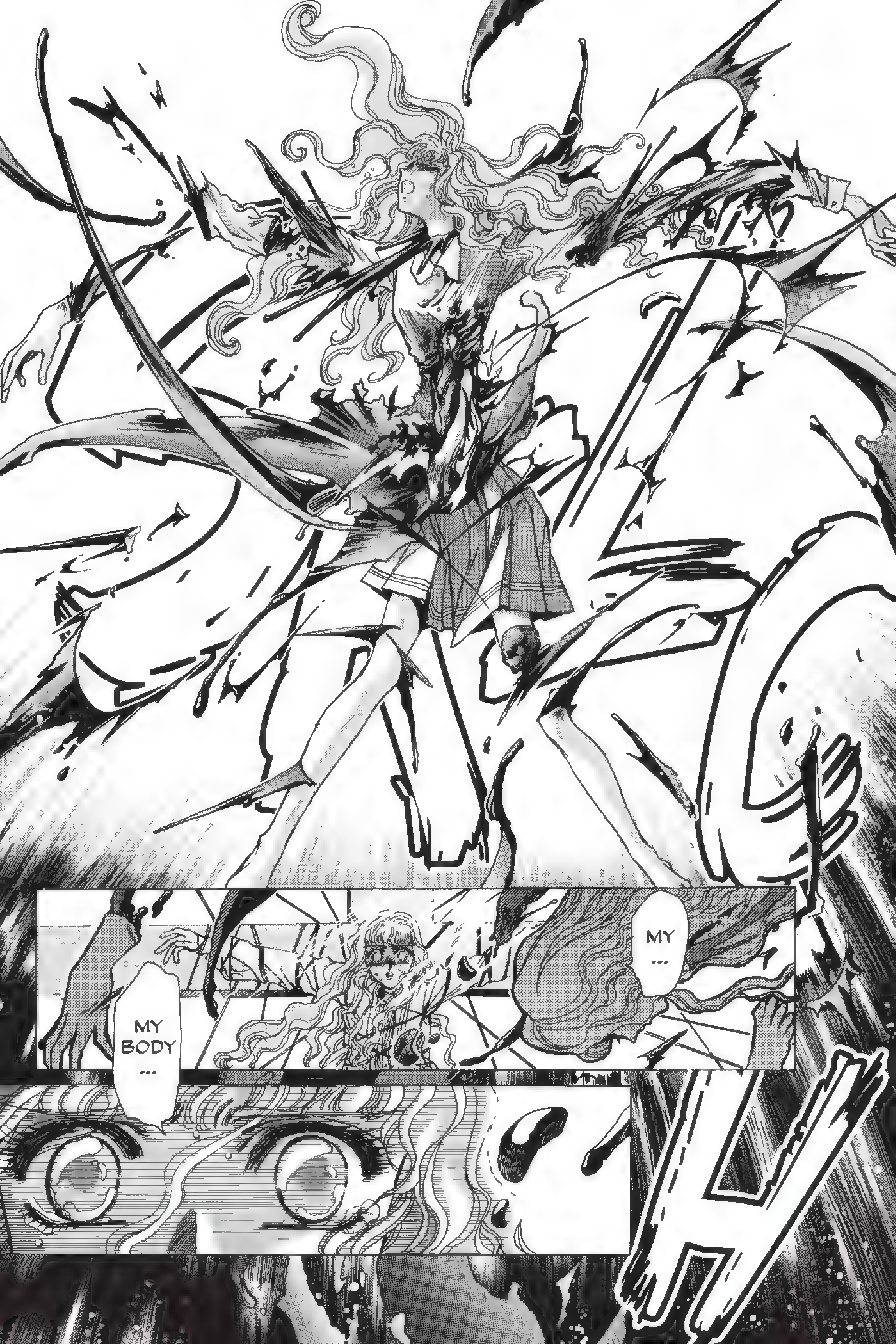

HELP!
SHWP
KAMUI!
HELP ME!
DASH
FWA


FWISH
PLASH
PLSH...
IT HURTS...
I... I CAN'T BREATHE!

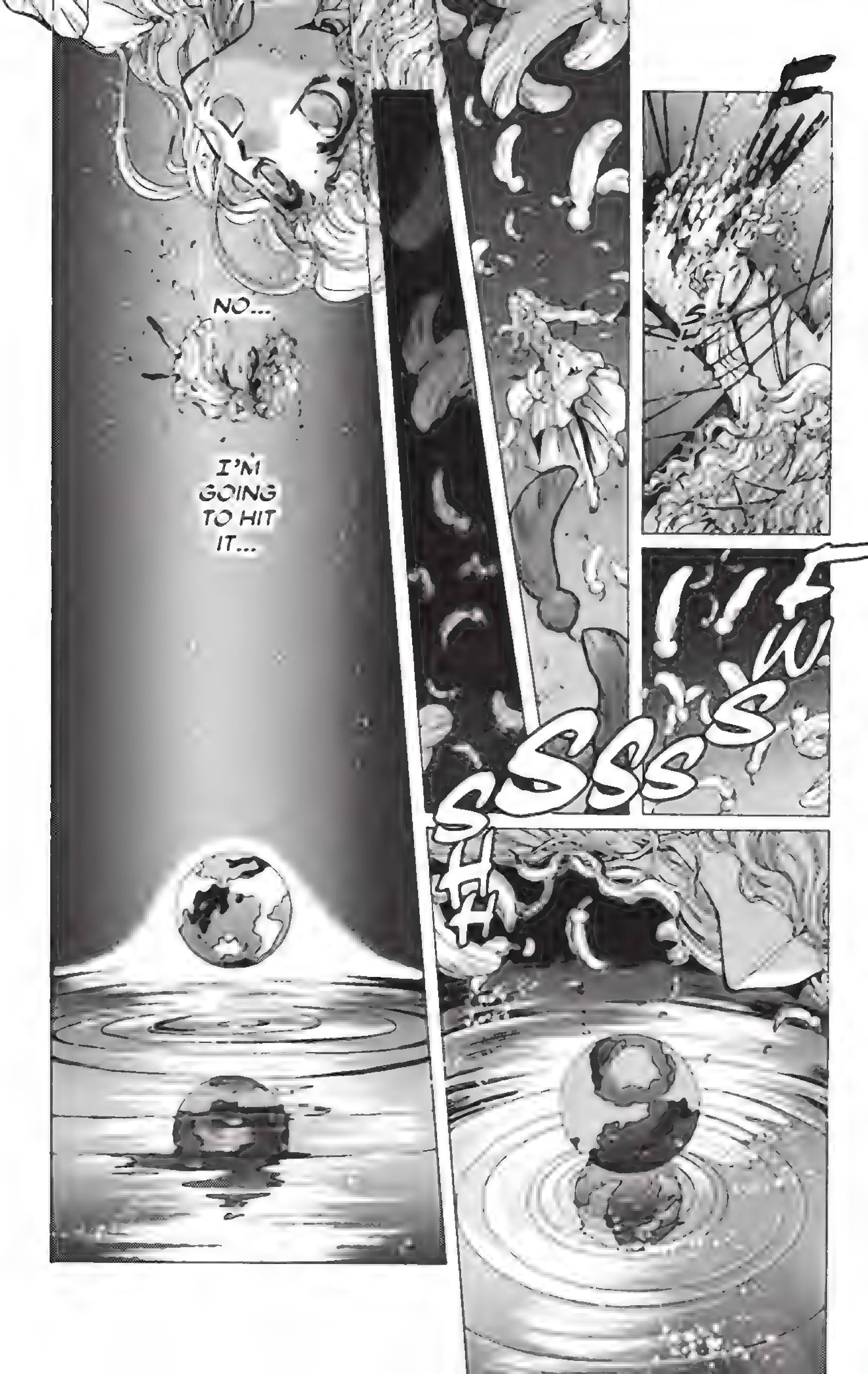

KAMUI...
FUMA...
HELP ME...
VWRRL
VWRL...

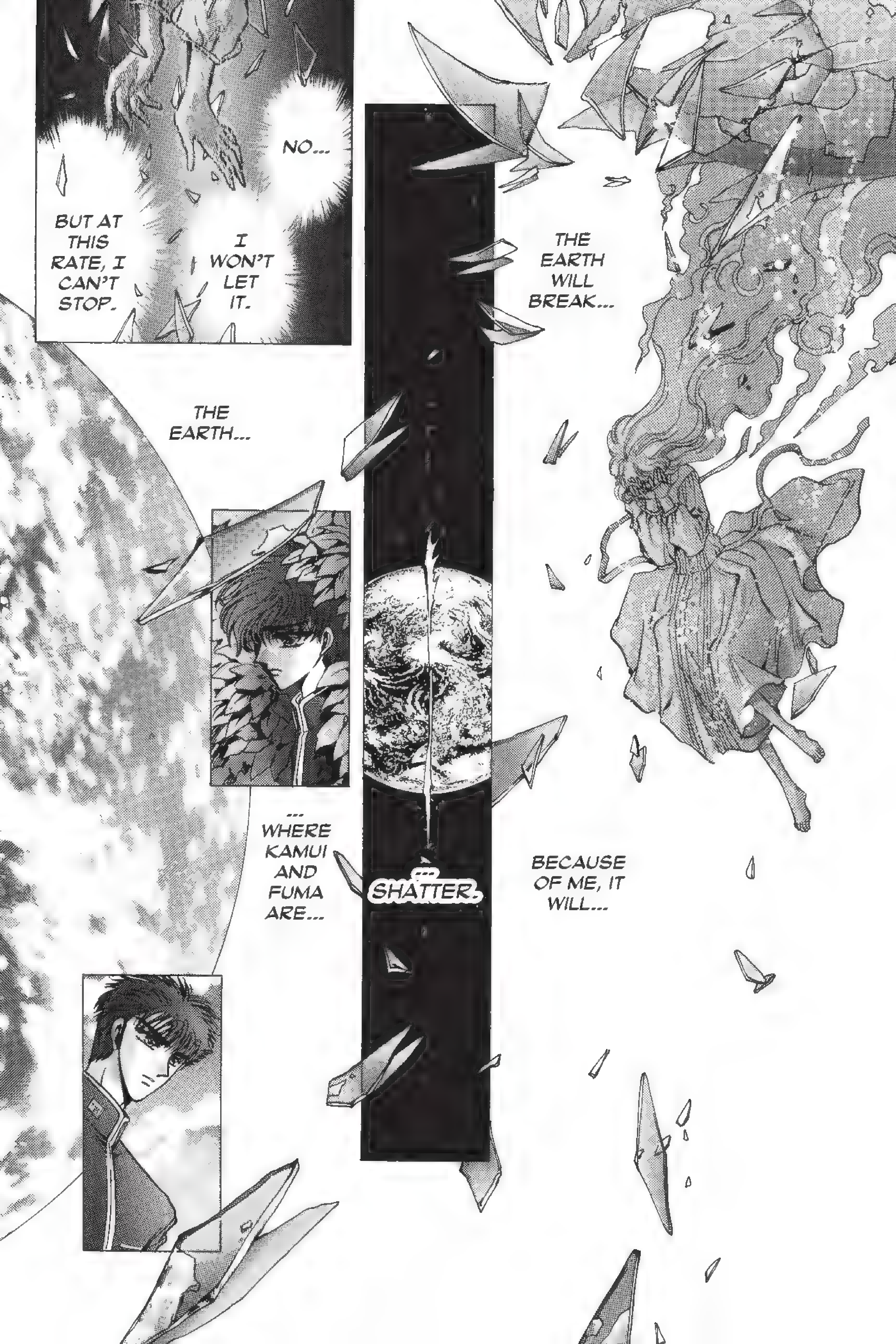

KRIII
KRII
HYOOO
THAT'S ...
... ME ...?

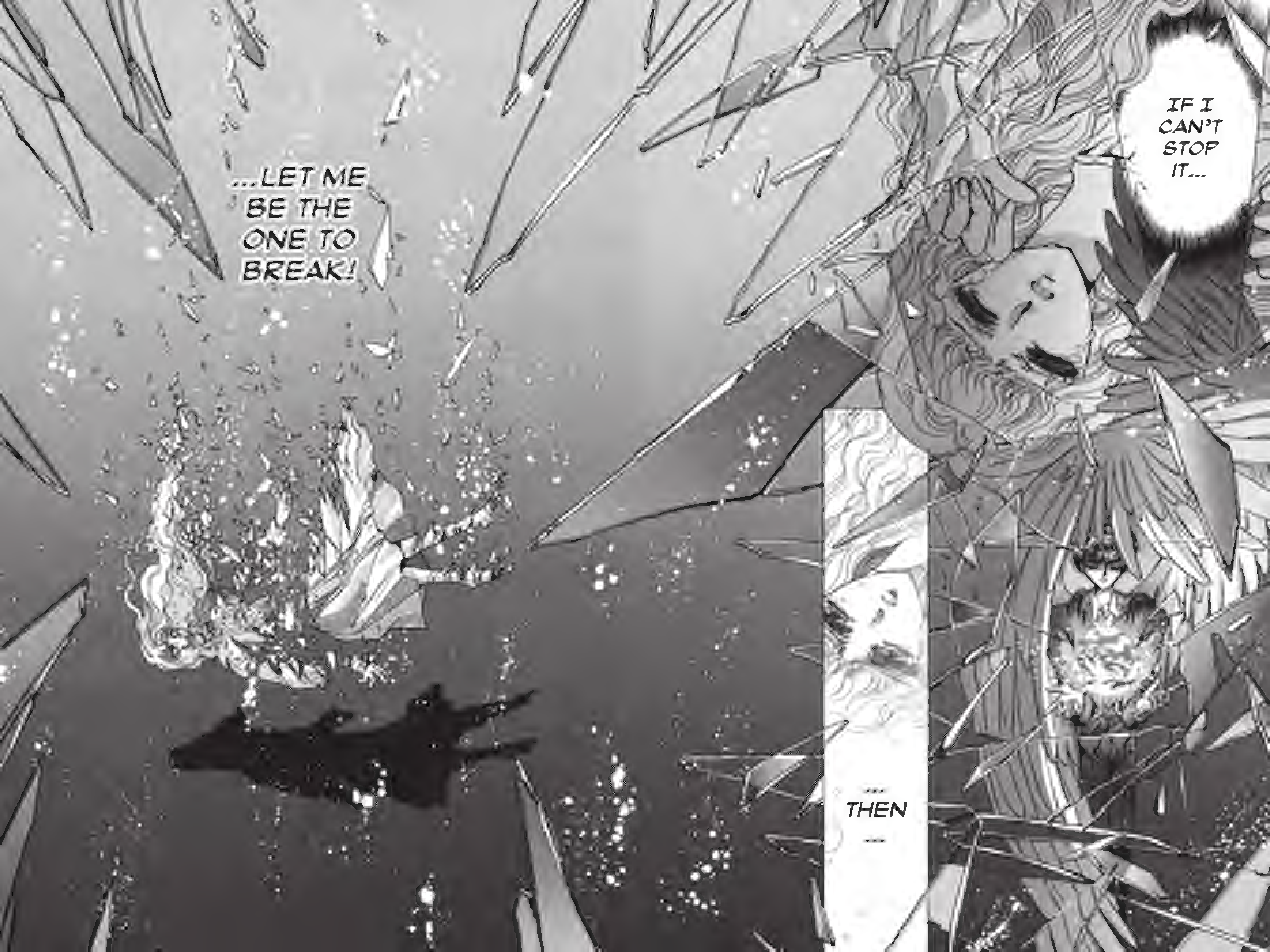

HYOOO
KR
SKRTT
STOP!
SPLIK
STOP IT!!

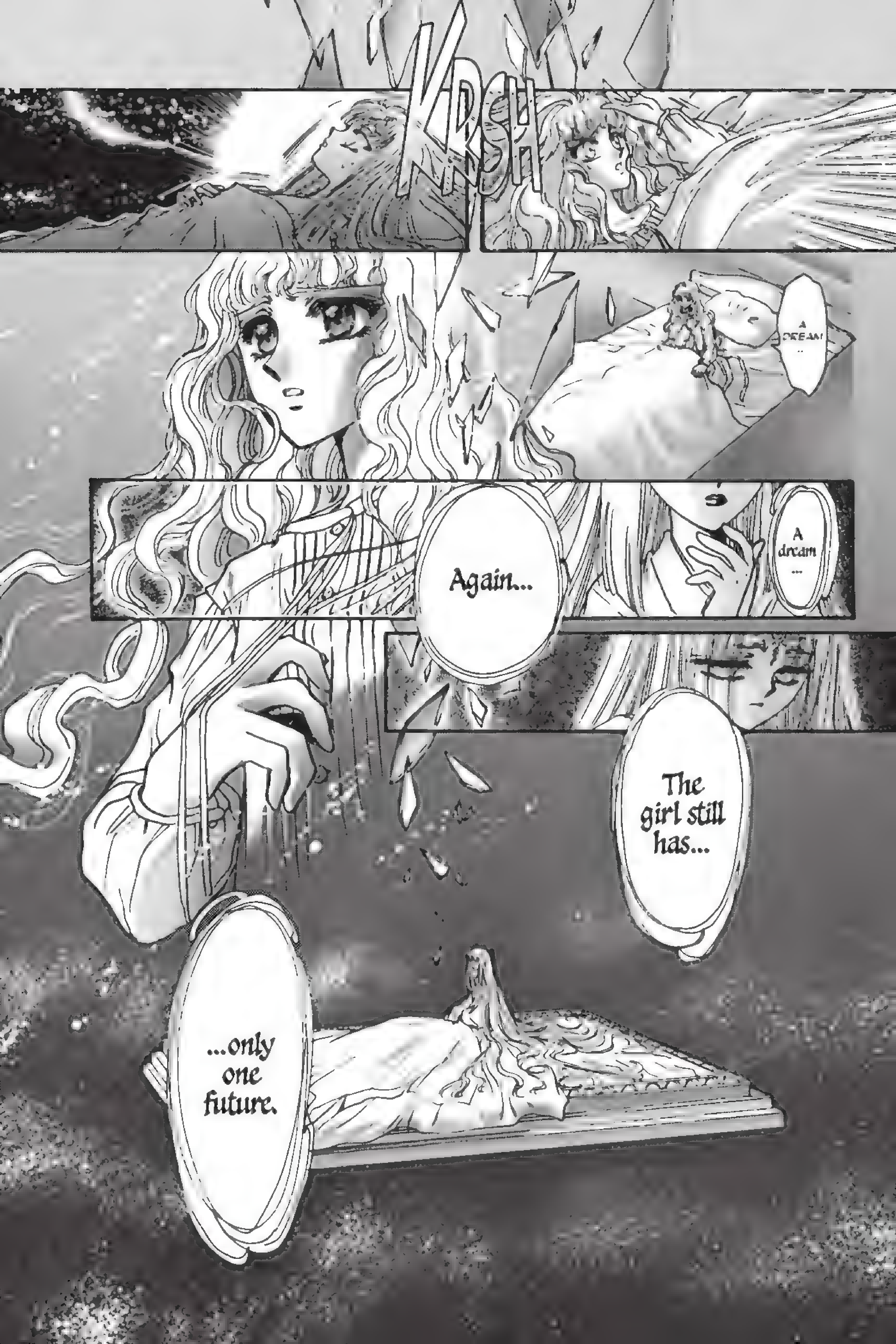


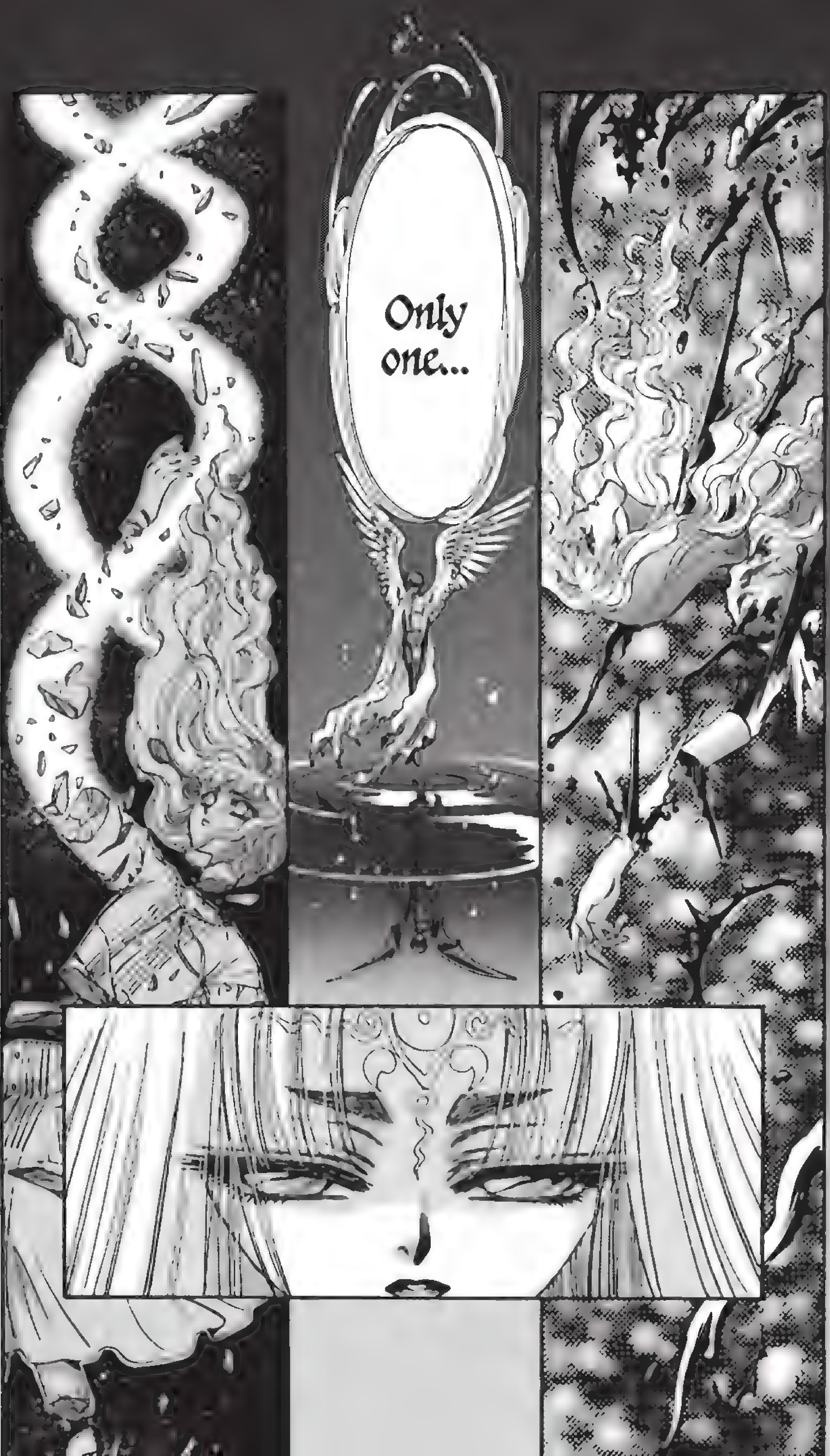
MY...
MY BODY...

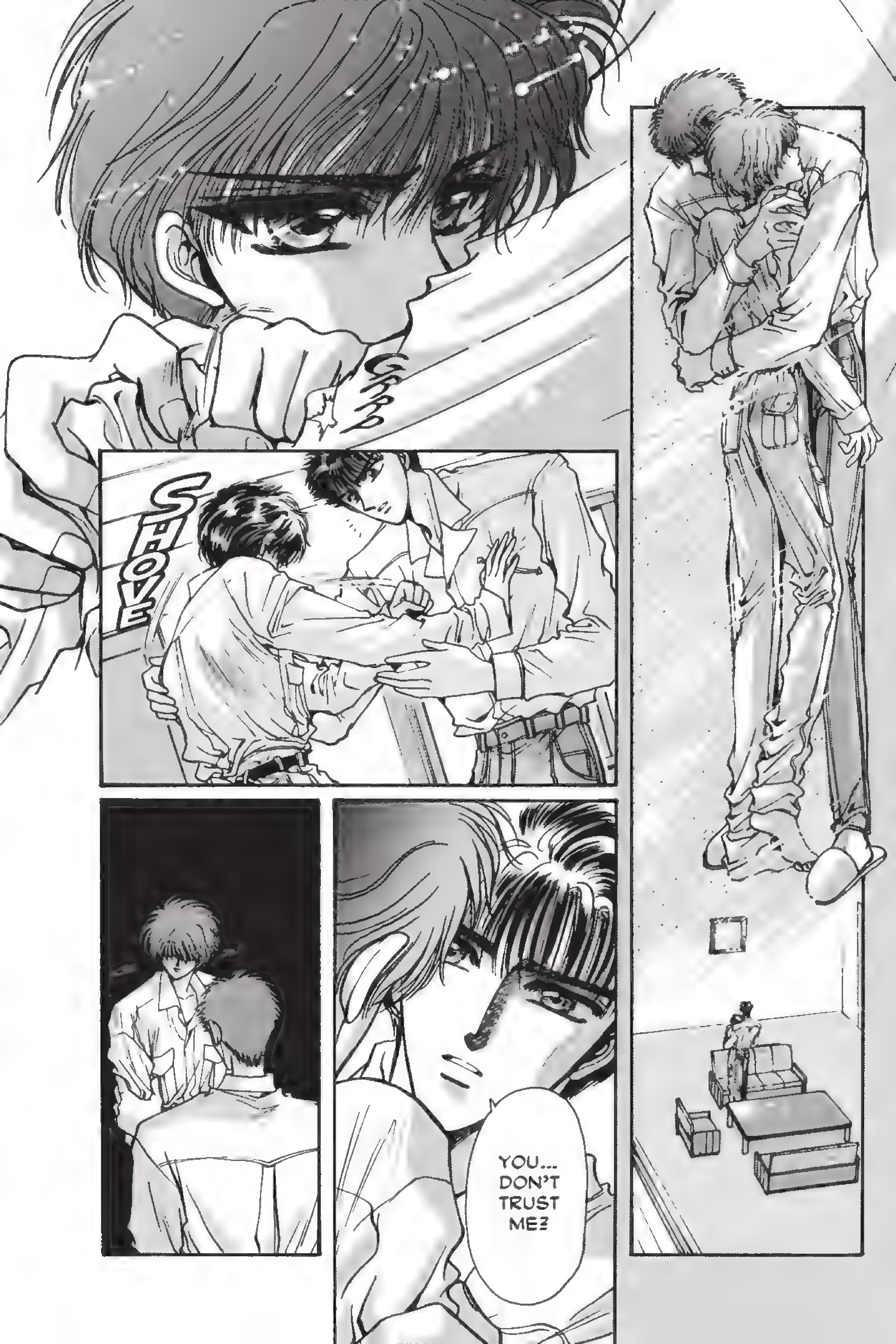

F
!!
FW
SSSSSH
NO...
I'M GOING TO HIT IT...

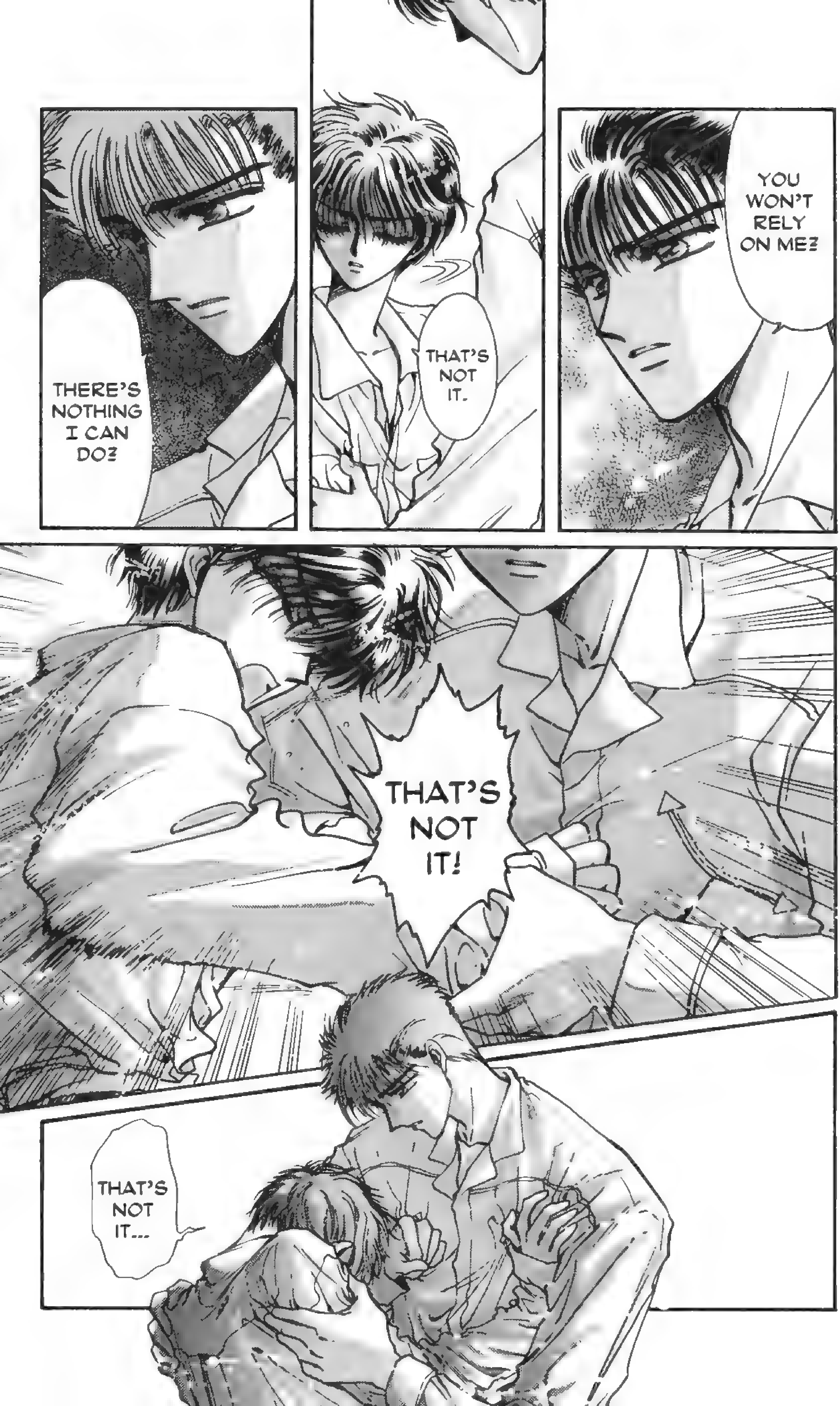

THE EARTH WILL BREAK...
NO...
I WON'T LET IT.
BUT AT THIS RATE, I CAN'T STOP.
THE EARTH...
...WHERE KAMUI AND FUMA ARE...
BECAUSE OF ME, IT WILL...
...SHATTER.

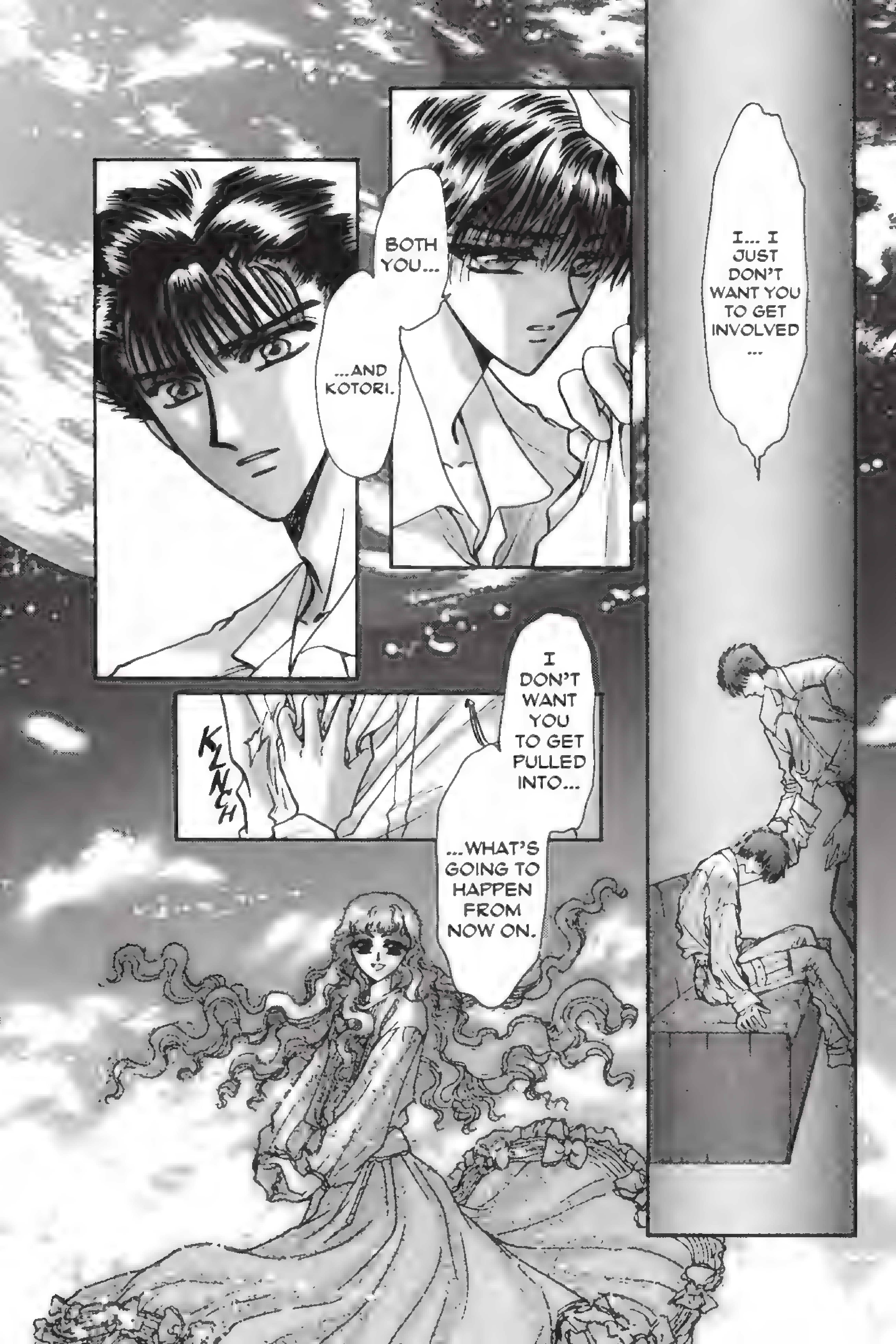

IF I CAN'T STOP IT...
... THEN ...
...LET ME BE THE ONE TO BREAK!

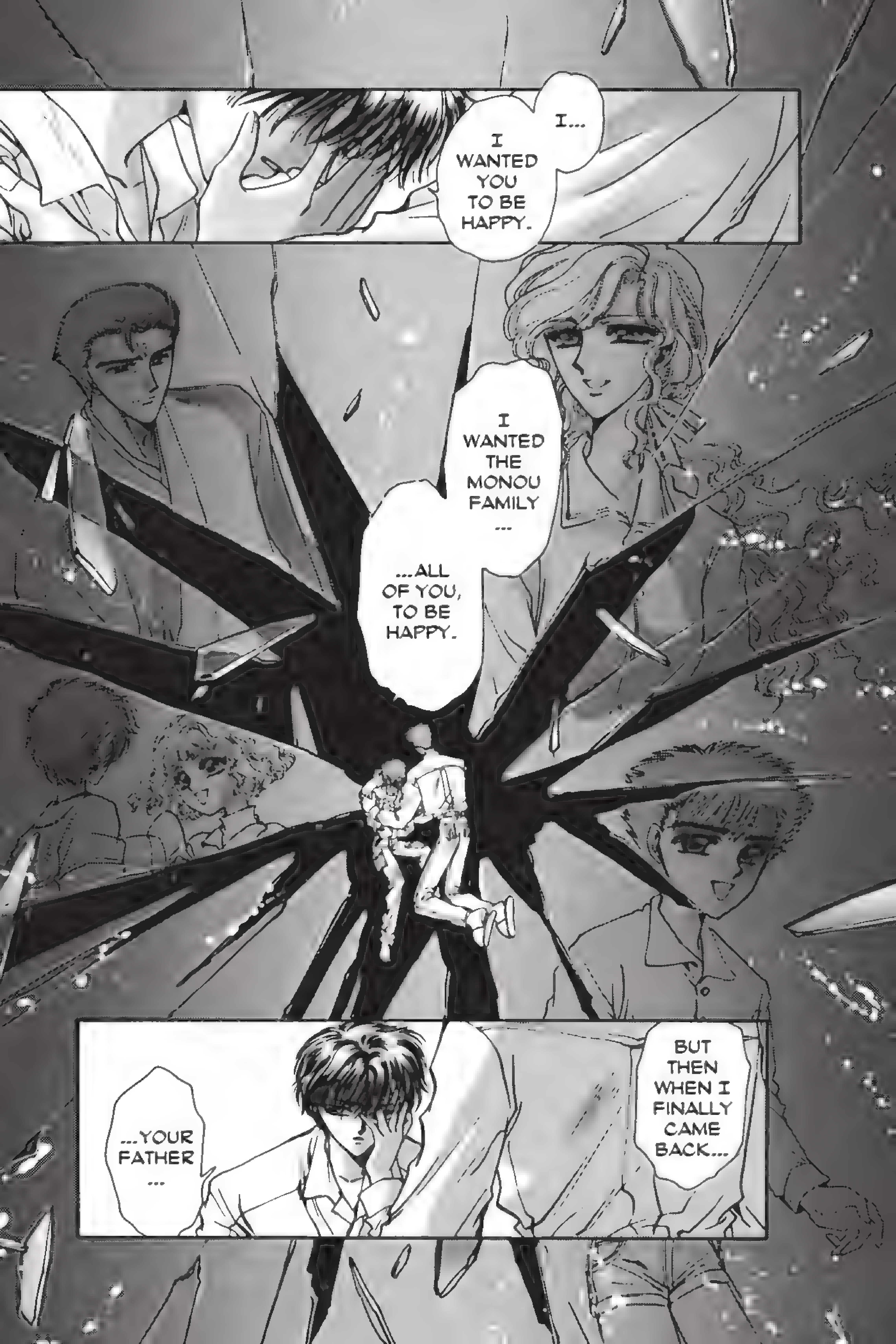

KRSH
A DREAM ...
A dream ...
Again...
The girl still has...
...only one future.

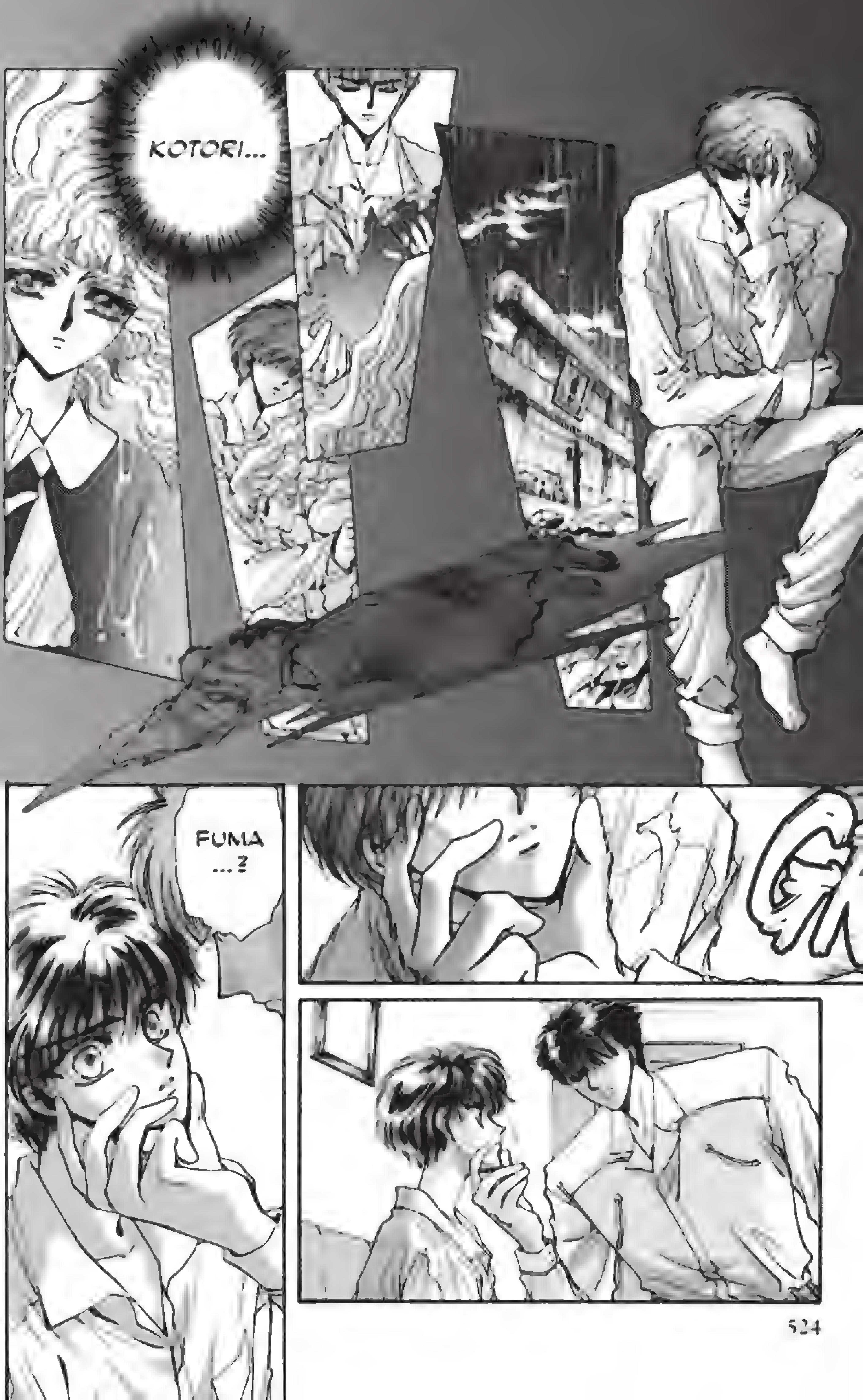

Only one...

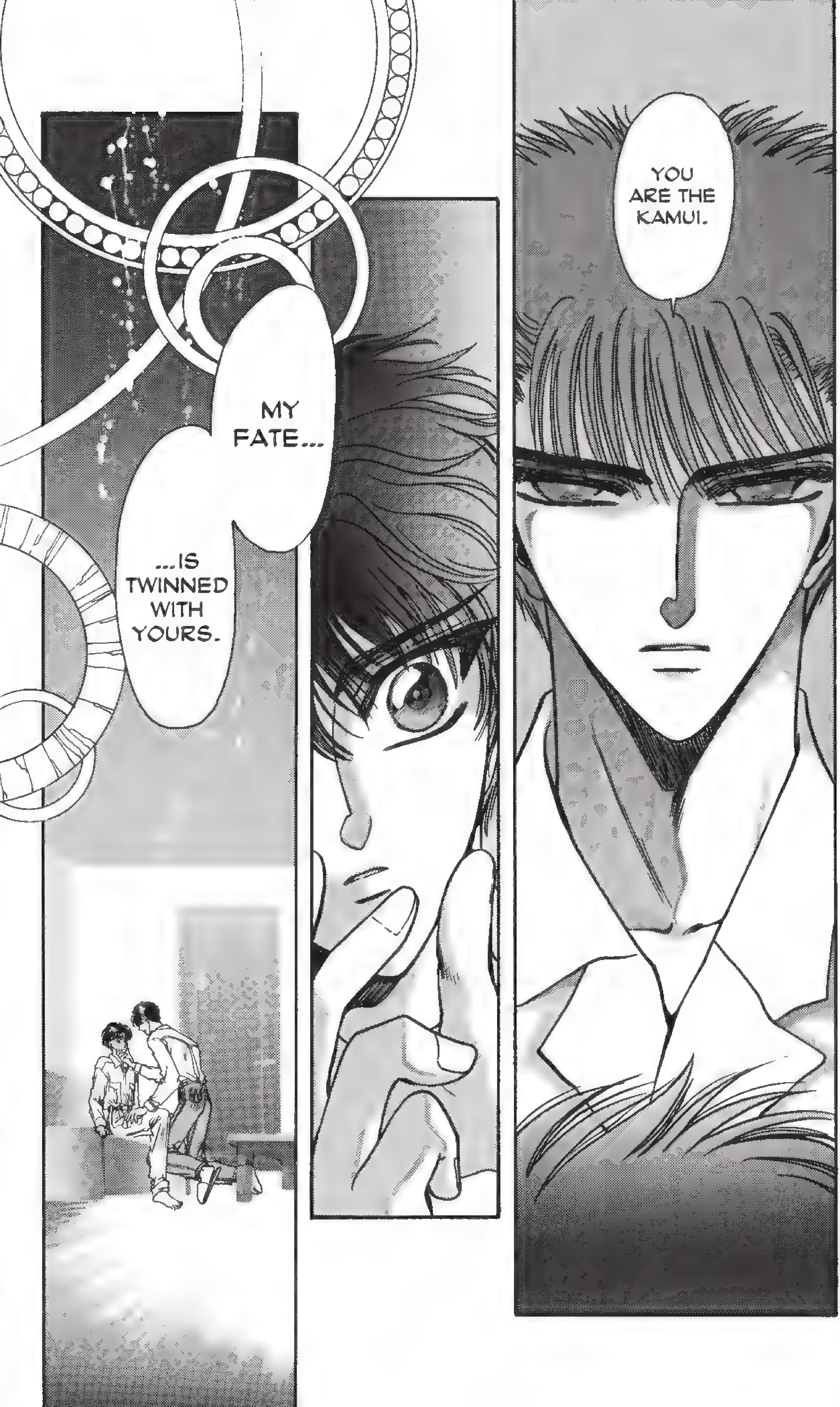

GRAB
SHOVE
YOU... DON'T TRUST ME?

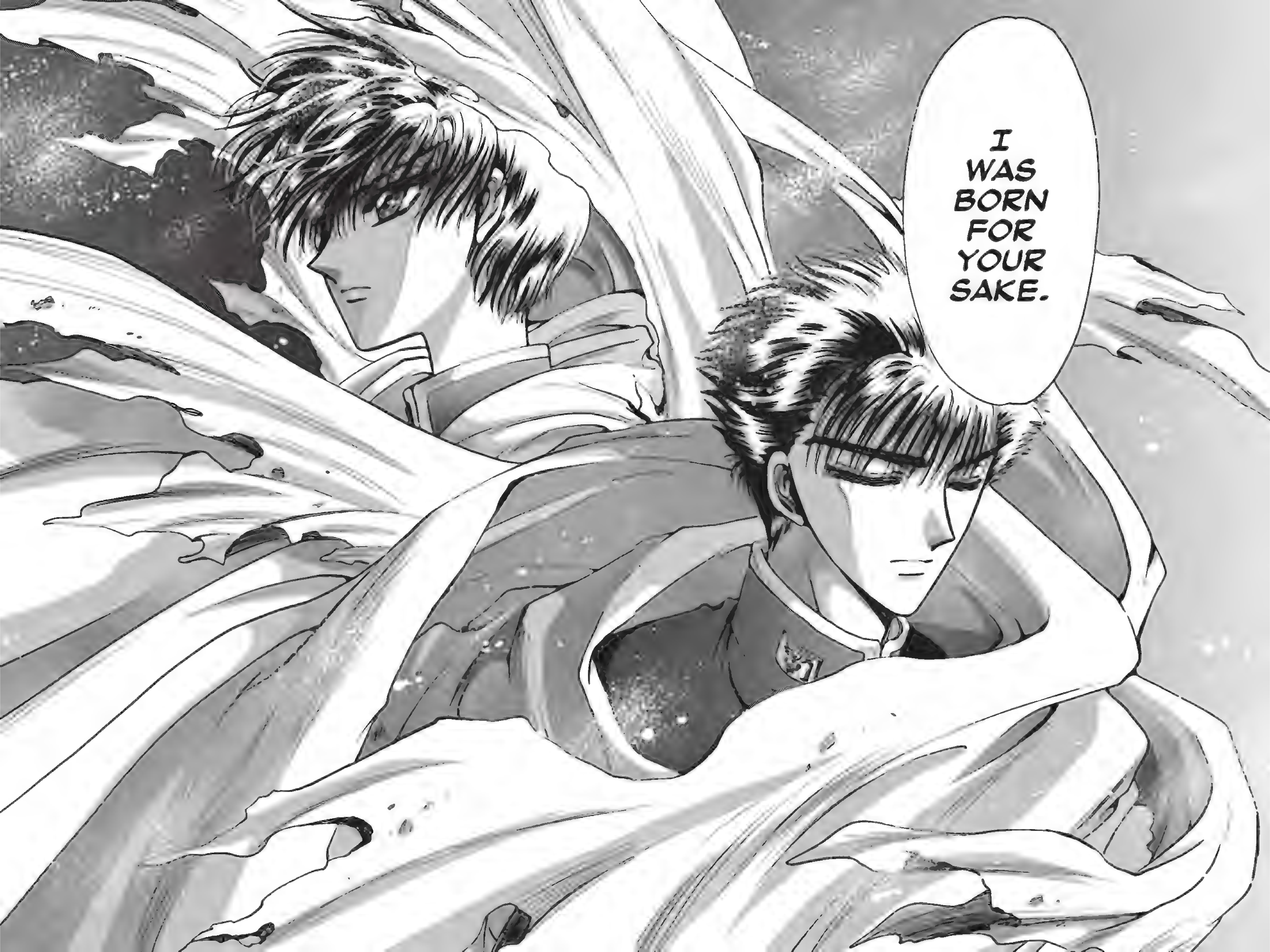

YOU WON'T RELY ON ME?
THAT'S NOT IT.
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO?
THAT'S NOT IT!
THAT'S NOT IT...

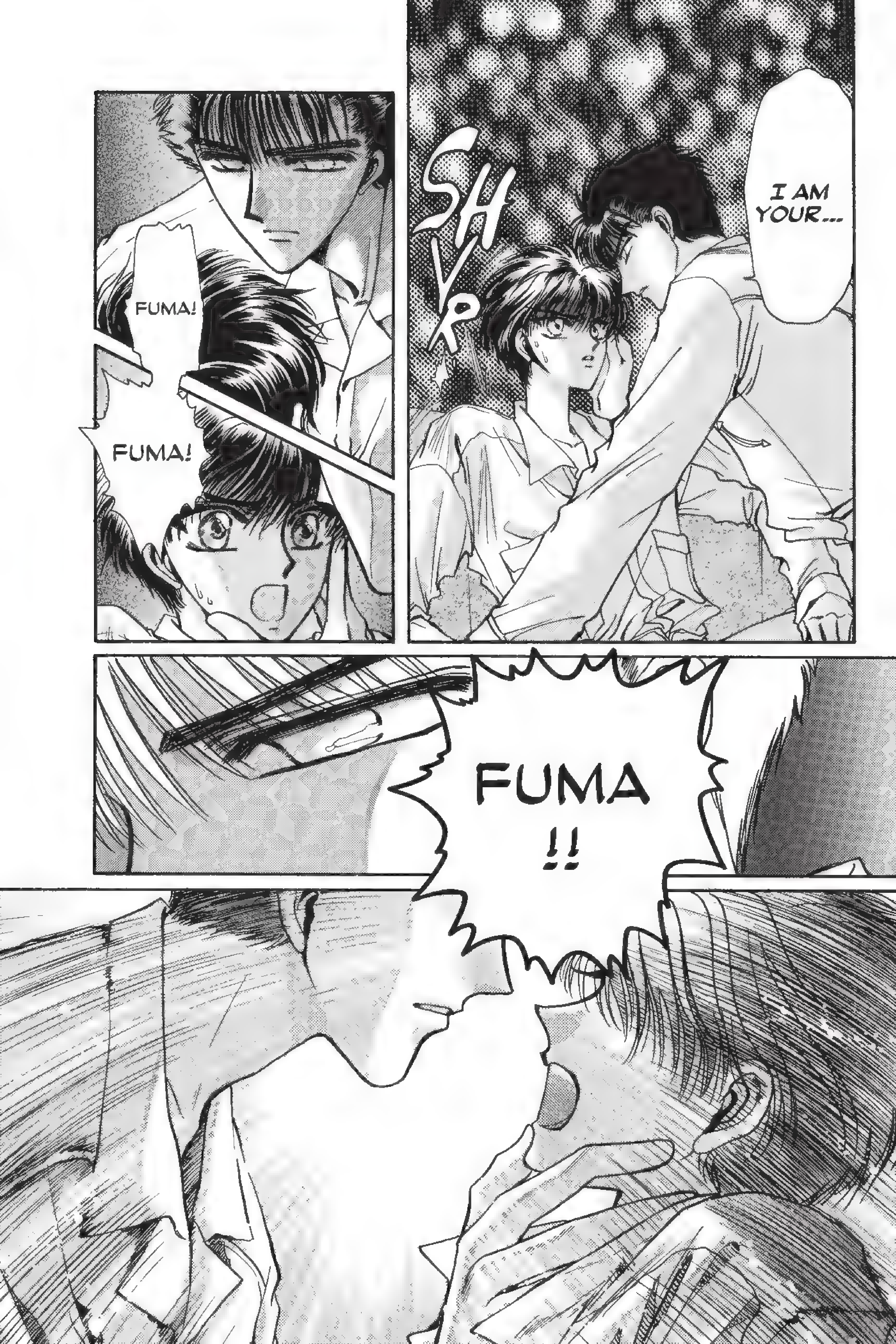

I... I JUST DON'T WANT YOU TO GET INVOLVED ...
BOTH YOU...
...AND KOTORI.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET PULLED INTO...
...WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN FROM NOW ON.
KLNCH

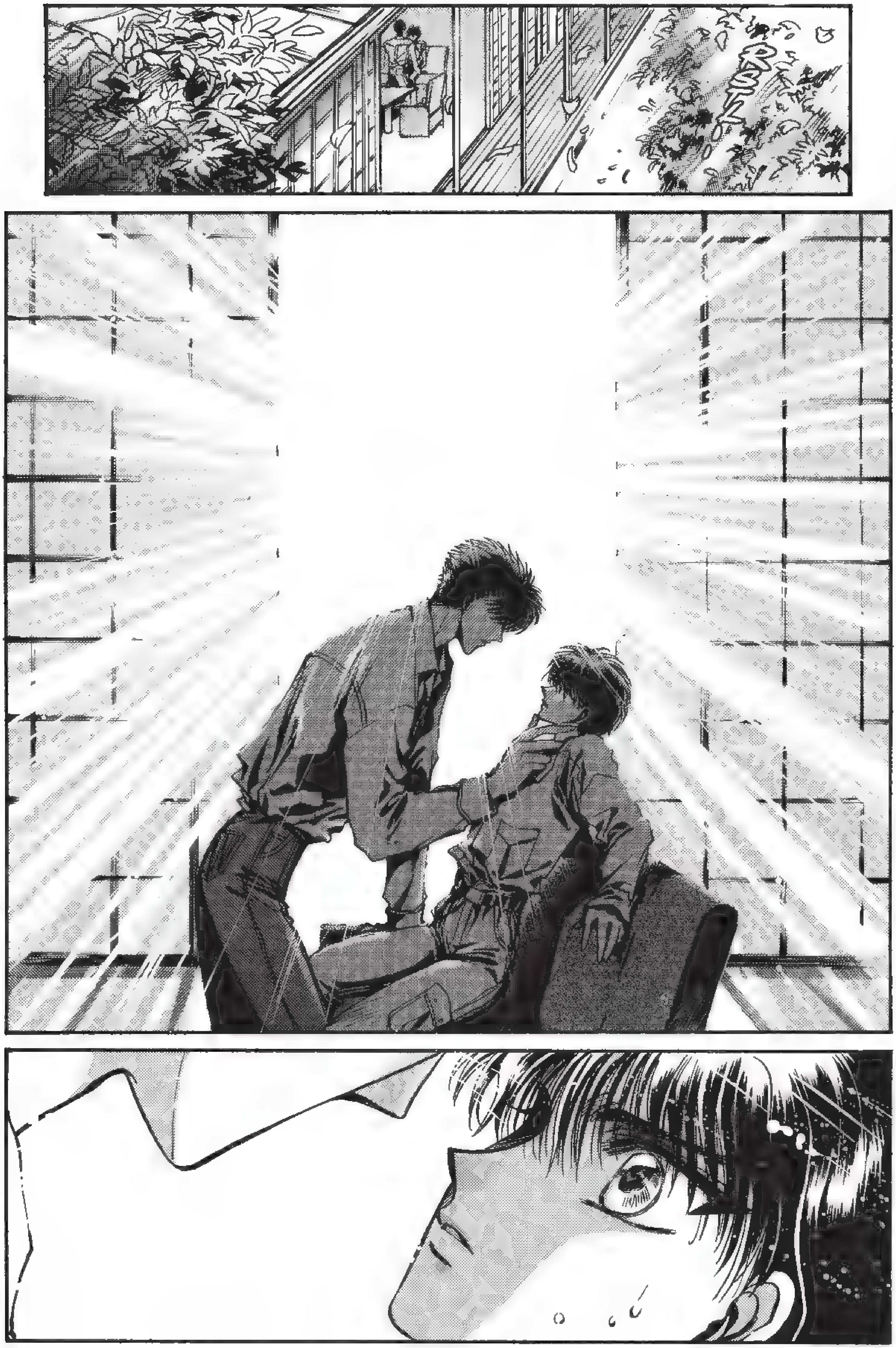

I...
I WANTED YOU TO BE HAPPY.
I WANTED THE MONOU FAMILY...
...ALL OF YOU, TO BE HAPPY.
BUT THEN WHEN I FINALLY CAME BACK...
...YOUR FATHER...

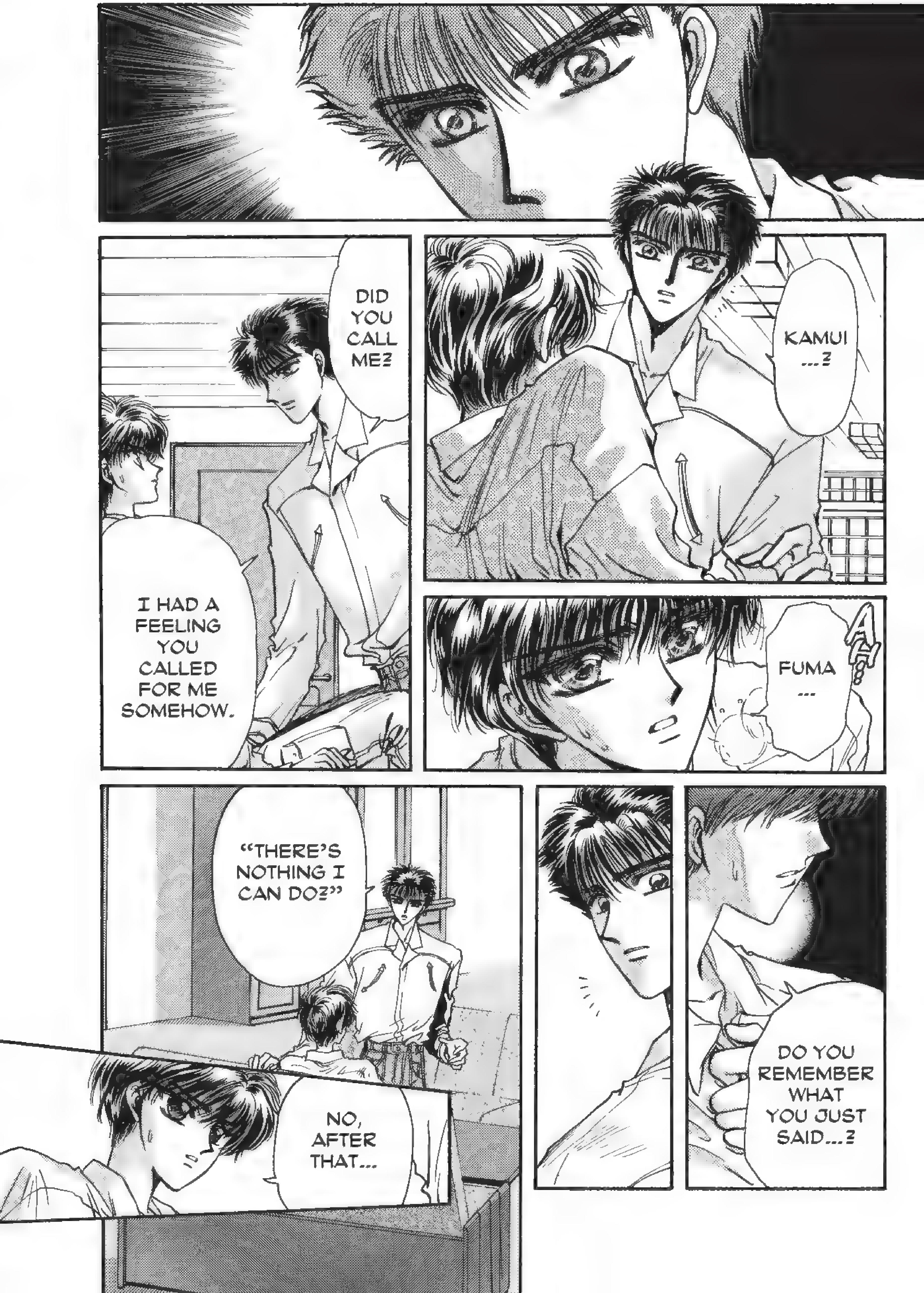

KOTORI...
FUMA ...?

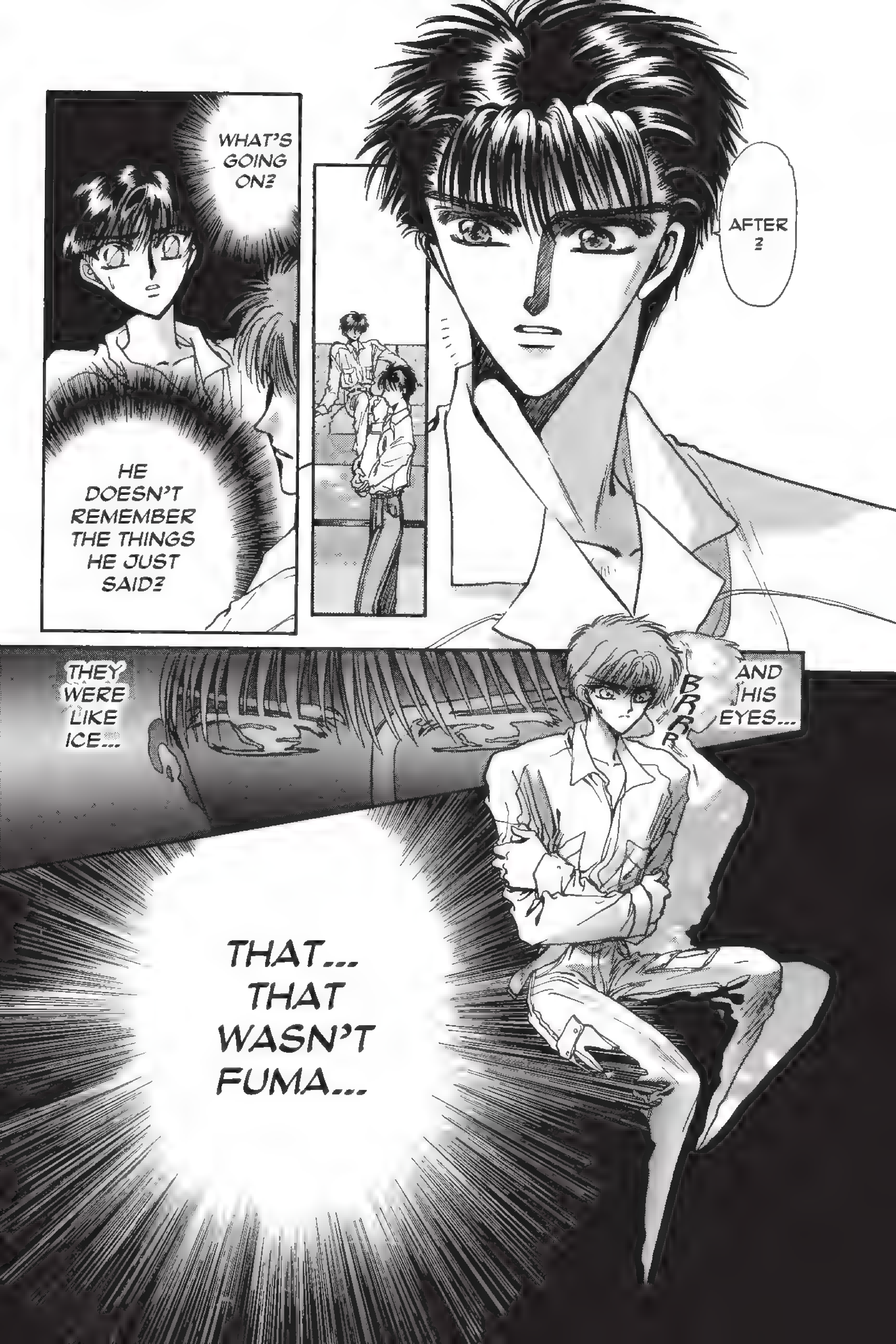

YOU ARE THE KAMUI.
MY FATE...
...IS TWINNED WITH YOURS.

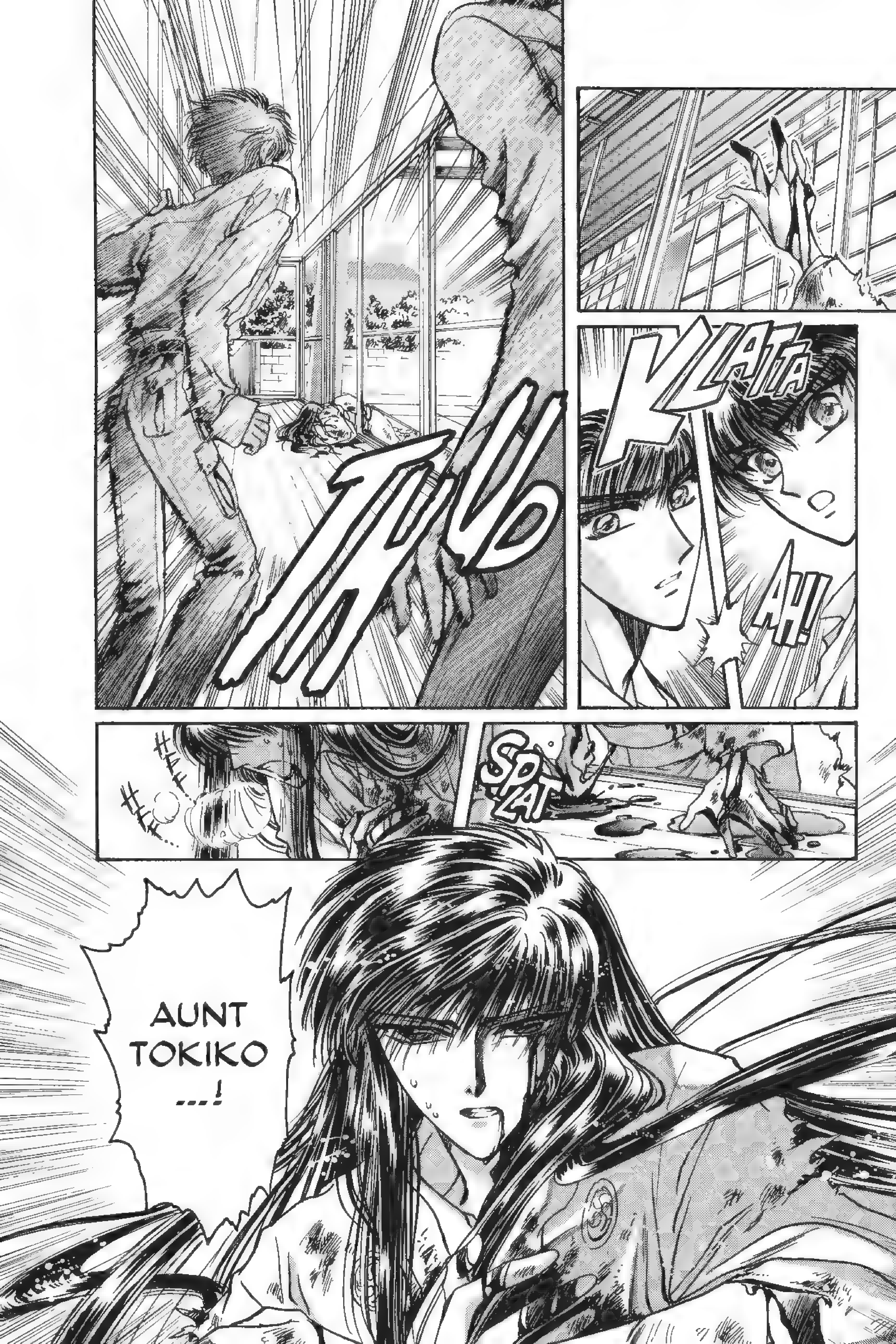

I WAS BORN FOR YOUR SAKE.

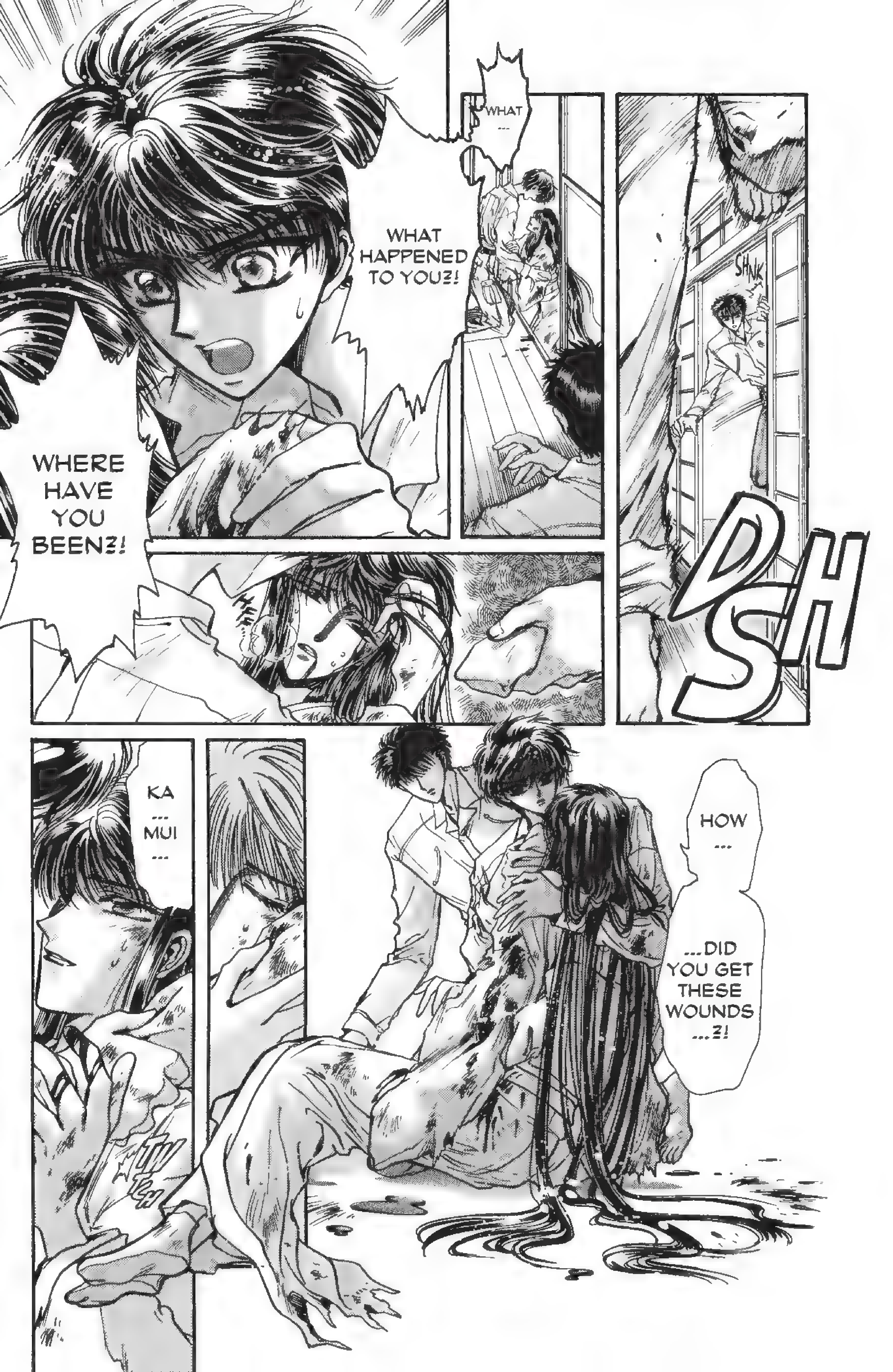

I AM YOUR...
SHVR
FUMA!
FUMA!
FUMA !!

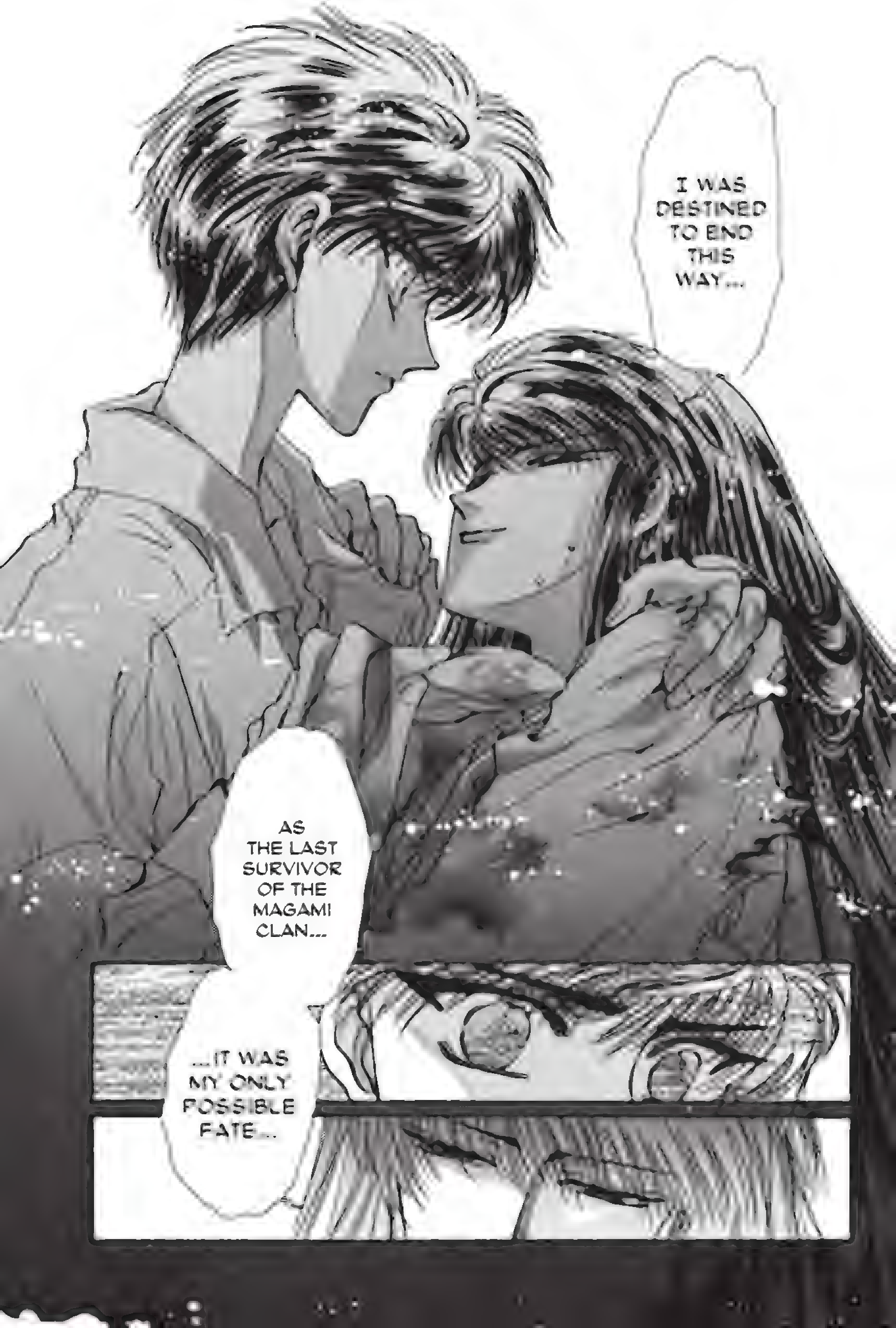

RSTL

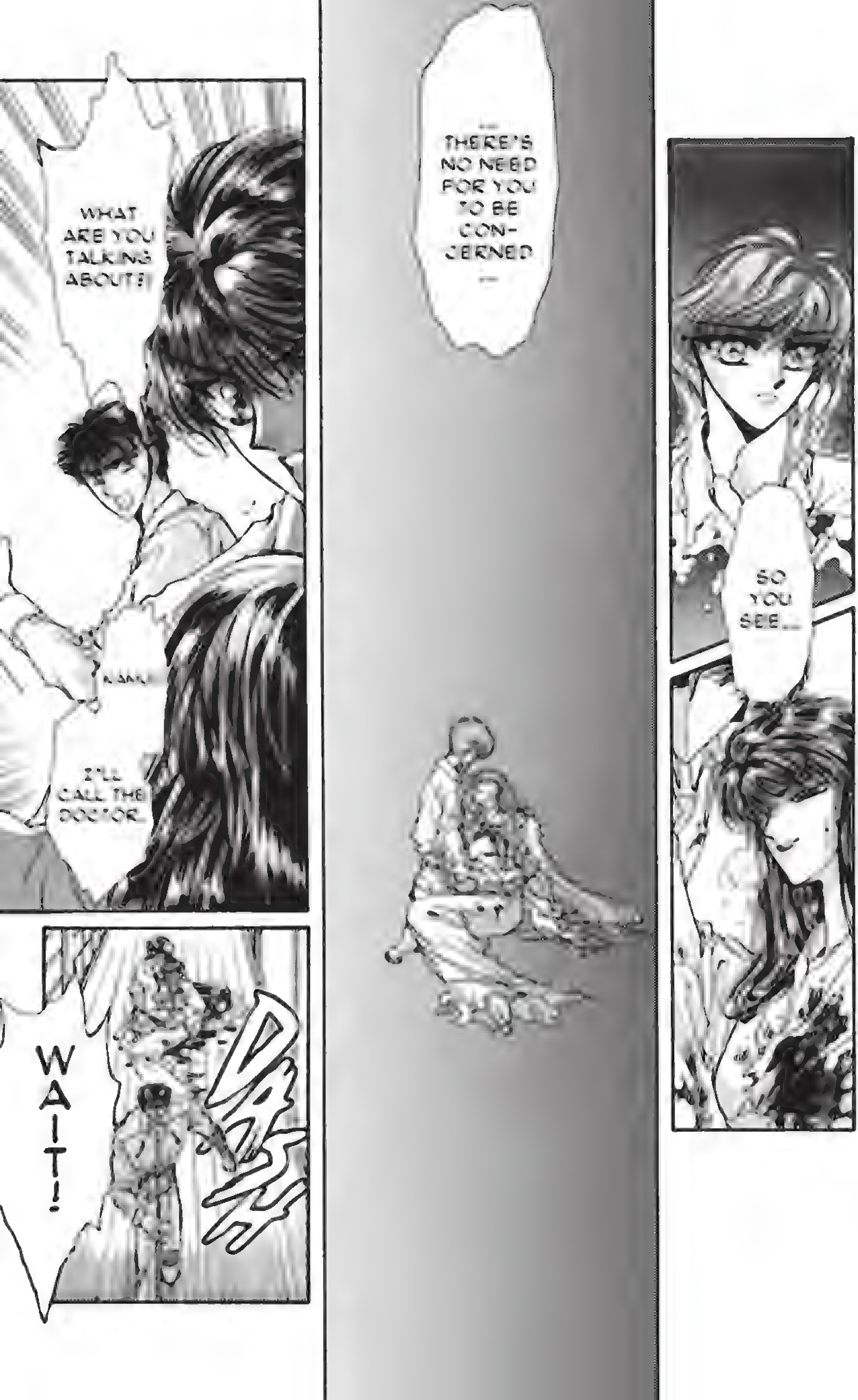

KAMUI ...?
FUMA ...
A!?
DID YOU CALL ME?
I HAD A FEELING YOU CALLED FOR ME SOMEHOW.
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU JUST SAID...?
"THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO?"
NO, AFTER THAT...

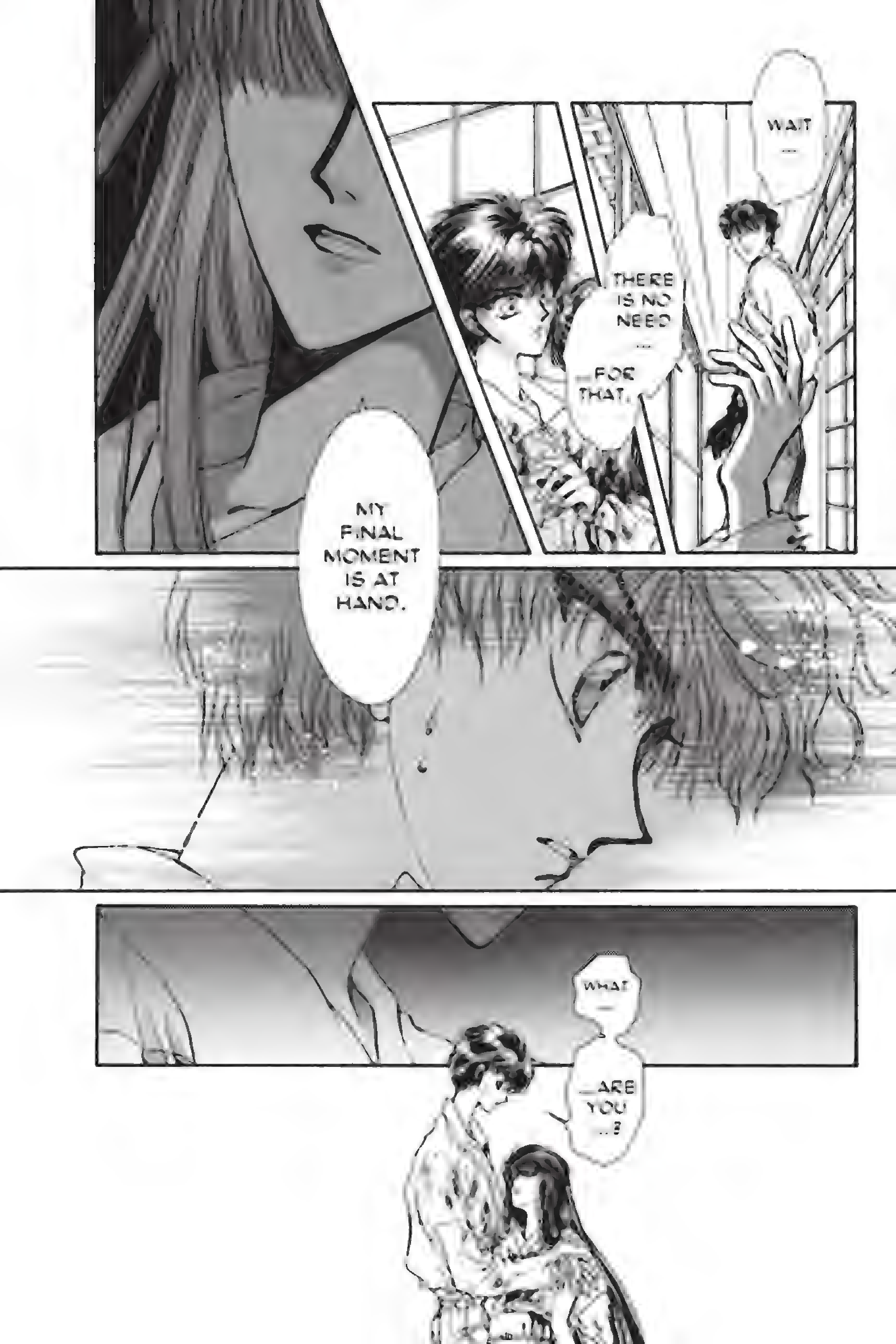

AFTER?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HE DOESN'T REMEMBER THE THINGS HE JUST SAID?
AND HIS EYES...
BRRR
THEY WERE LIKE ICE...
THAT... THAT WASN'T FUMA...

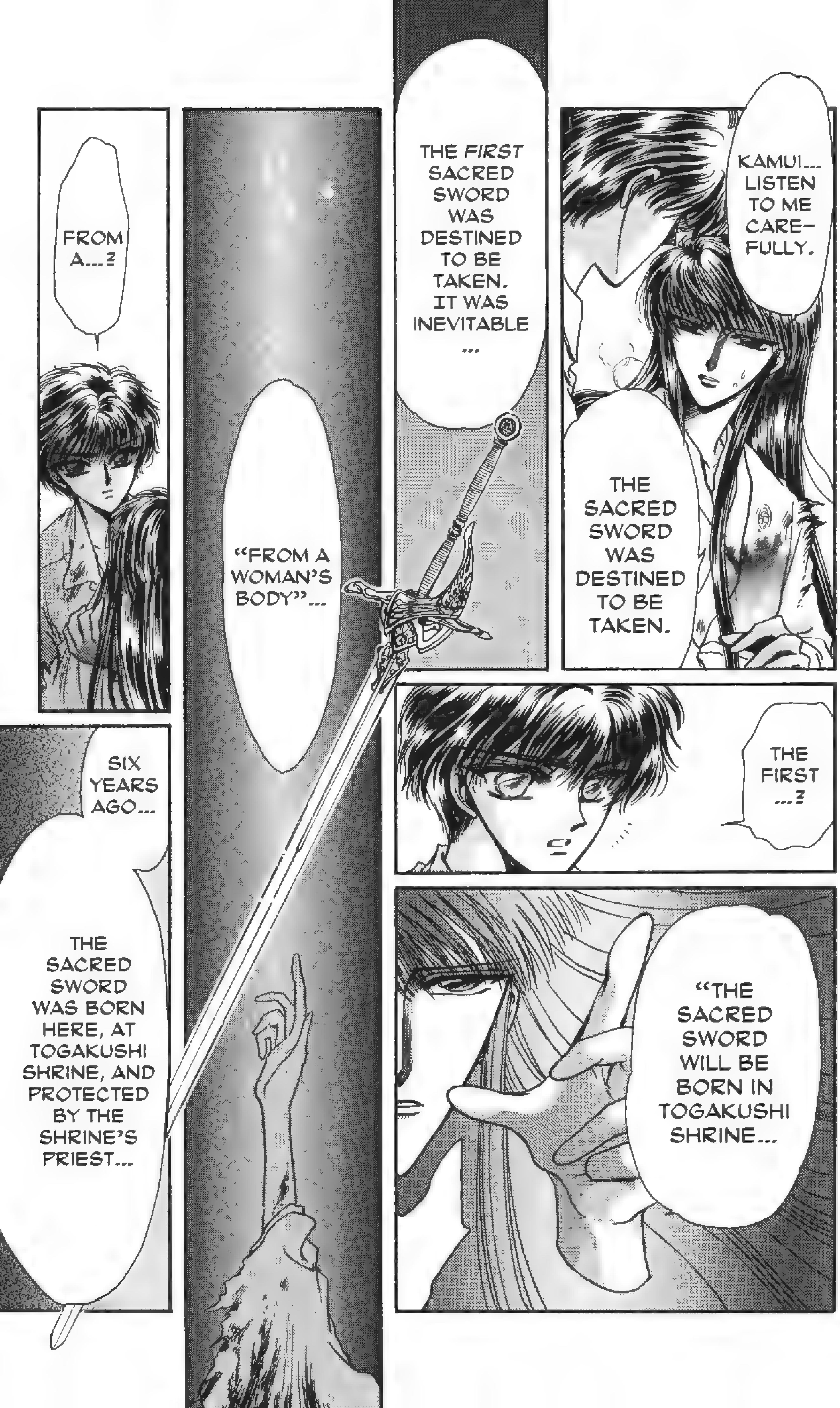

KLATTA
AH!
THUD
SPLAT
HFF
HFF...
AUNT TOKIKO ...!

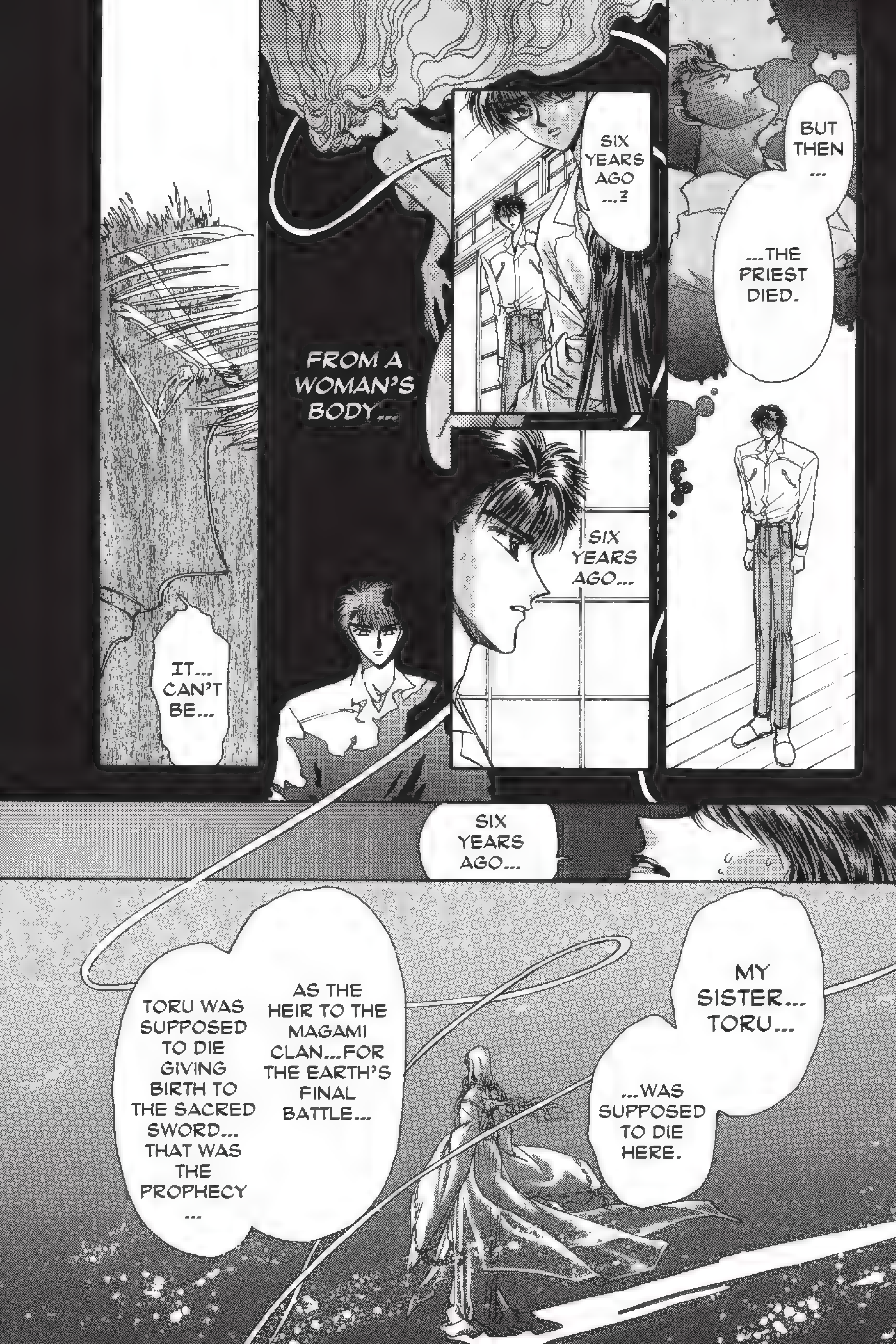

SHNK
DSH
WHAT ...
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!
HOW ...
...DID YOU GET THESE WOUNDS ...?!
KA ... MUI ...
TWITCH

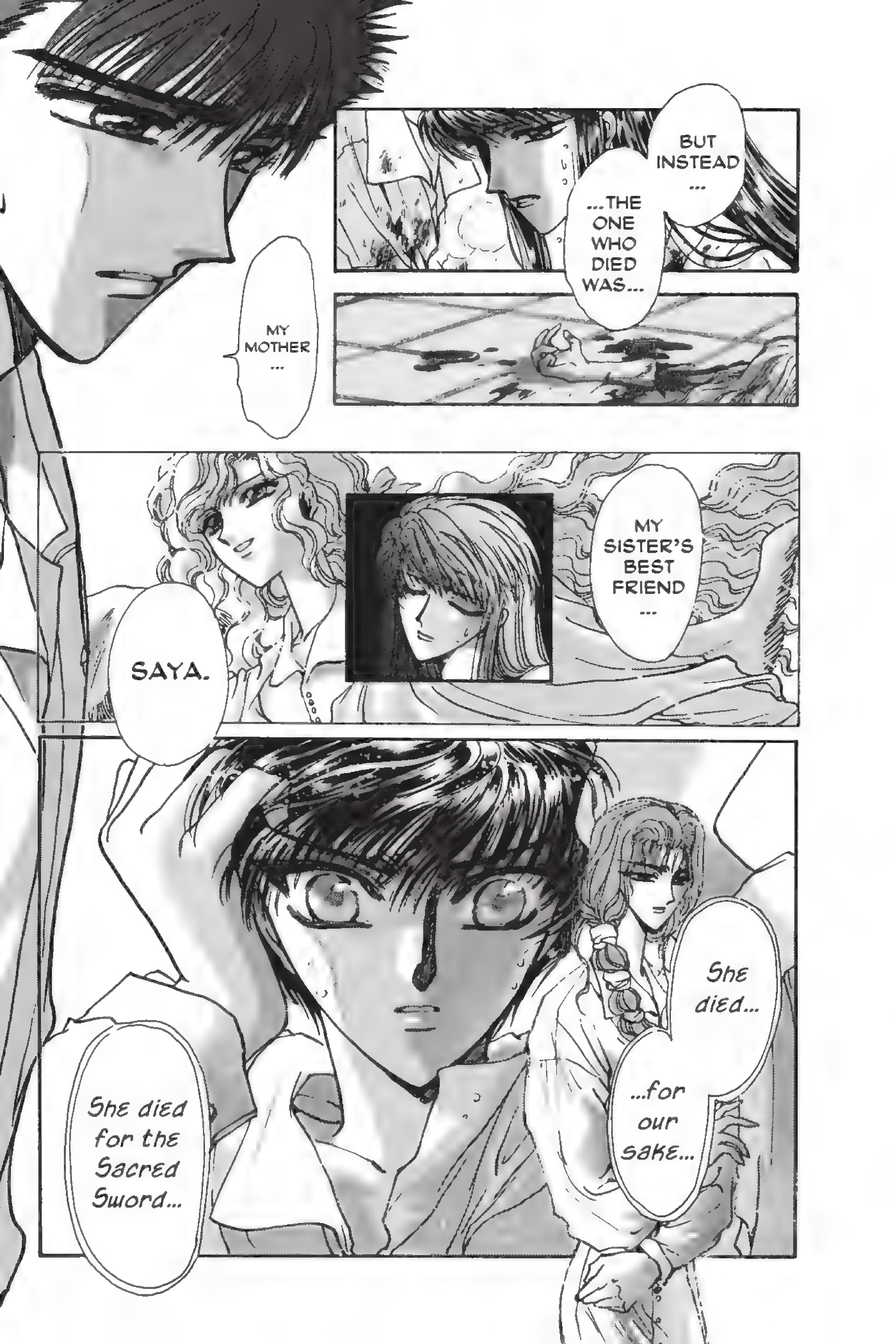

I WAS DESTINED TO END THIS WAY...
AS THE LAST SURVIVOR OF THE MAGAMI CLAN...
...IT WAS MY ONLY POSSIBLE FATE...

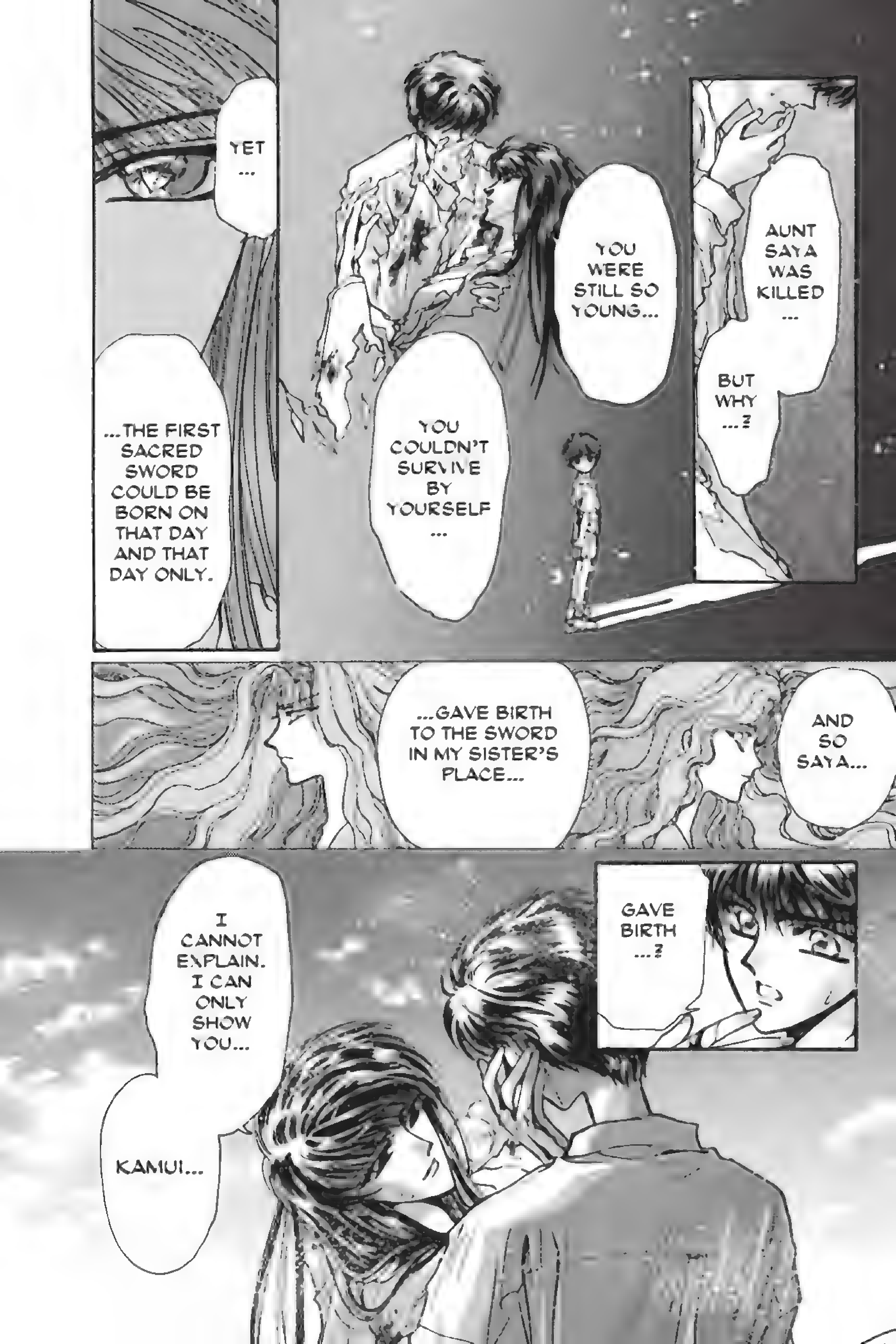

SO YOU SEE...
... THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO BE CONCERNED ...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
KANU!
I'LL CALL THE DOCTOR.
WAIT!
DASH

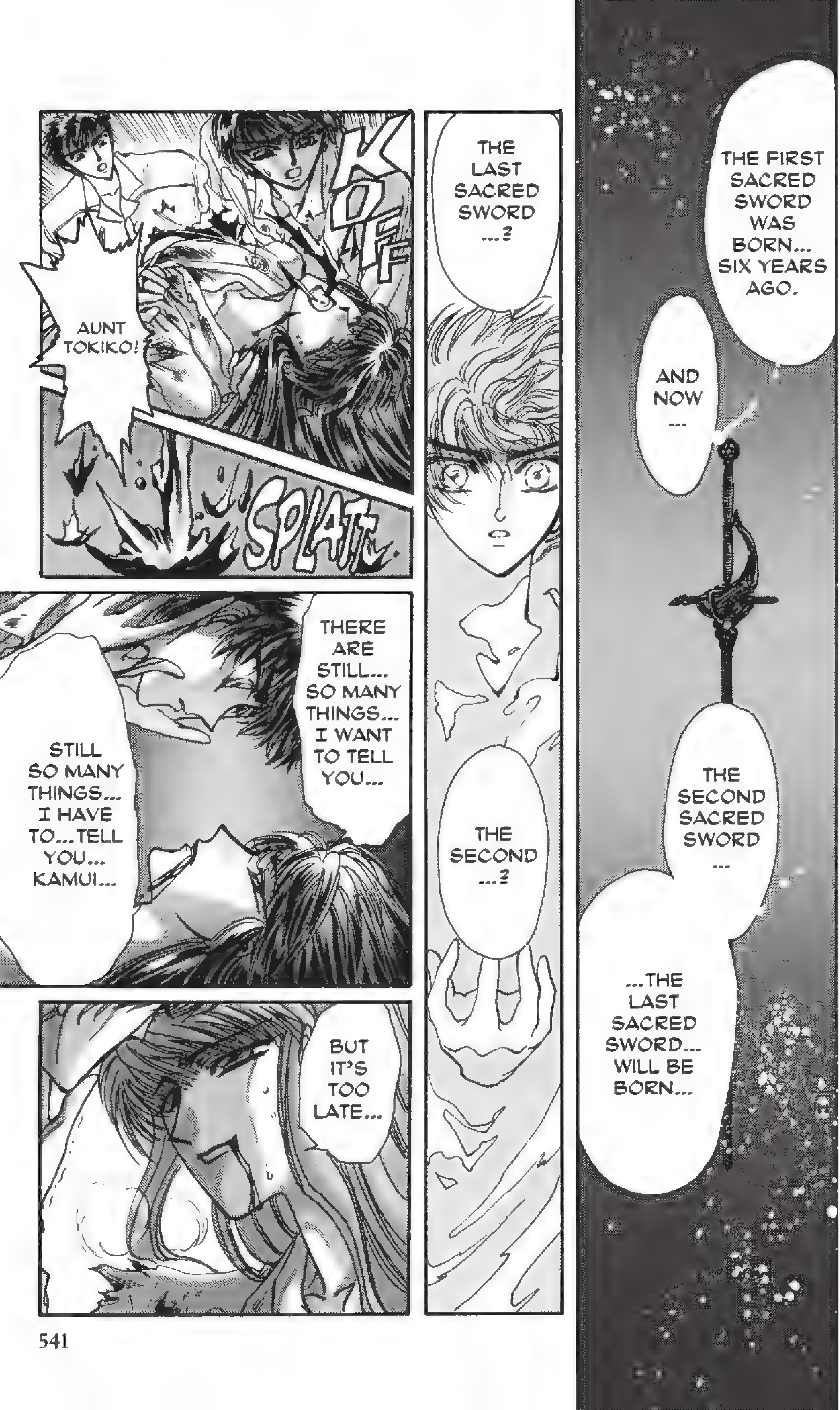

WAIT ...
THERE IS NO NEED ...
...FOR THAT.
MY FINAL MOMENT IS AT HAND.
WHAT ...
...ARE YOU ...?

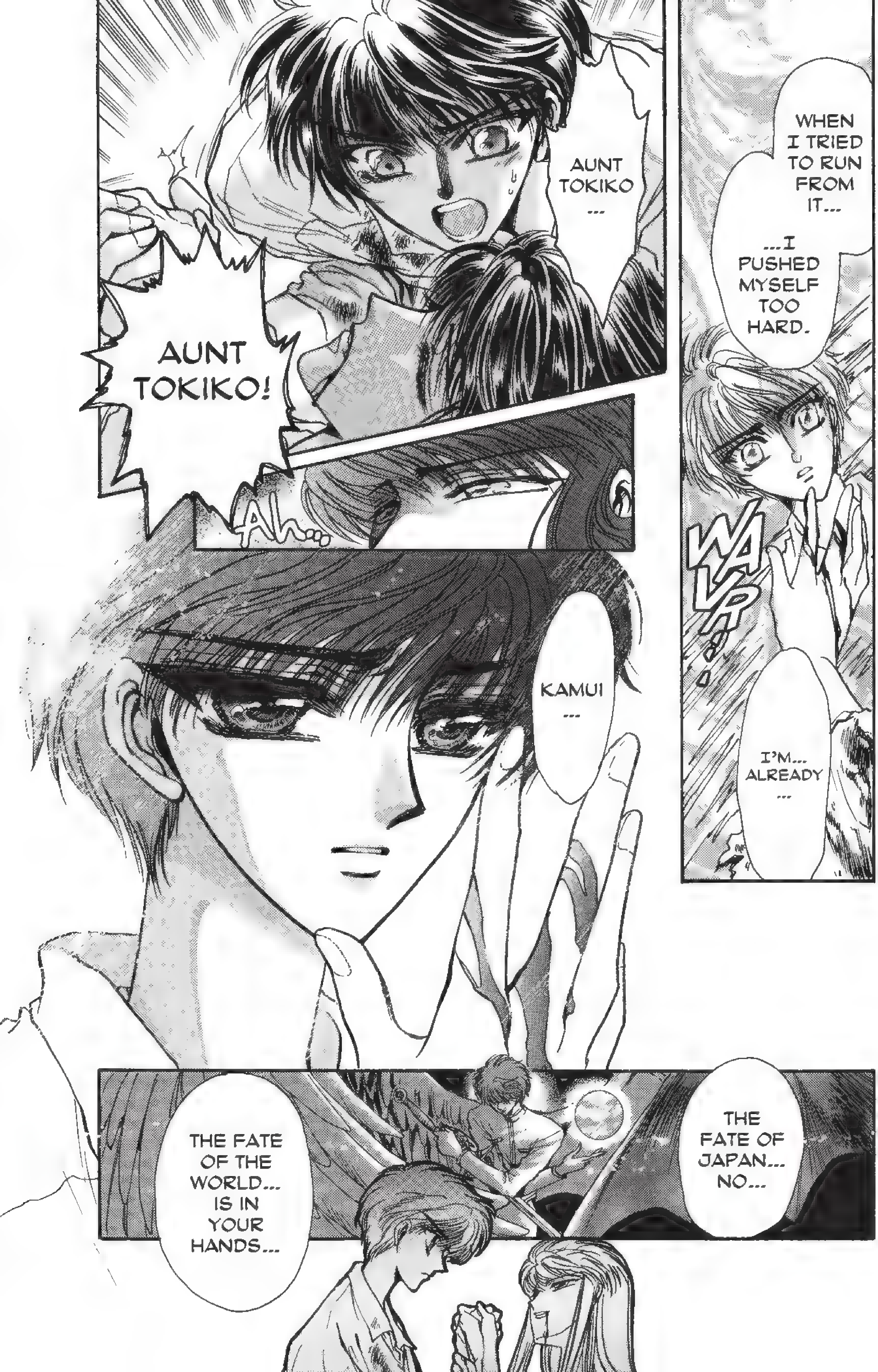

KAMUI... LISTEN TO ME CARE-FULLY.
THE SACRED SWORD WAS DESTINED TO BE TAKEN.
THE *FIRST* SACRED SWORD WAS DESTINED TO BE TAKEN. IT WAS INEVITABLE...
THE FIRST ...?
"THE SACRED SWORD WILL BE BORN IN TOGAKUSHI SHRINE...
"FROM A WOMAN'S BODY"...
FROM A...?
SIX YEARS AGO...
THE SACRED SWORD WAS BORN HERE, AT TOGAKUSHI SHRINE, AND PROTECTED BY THE SHRINE'S PRIEST...

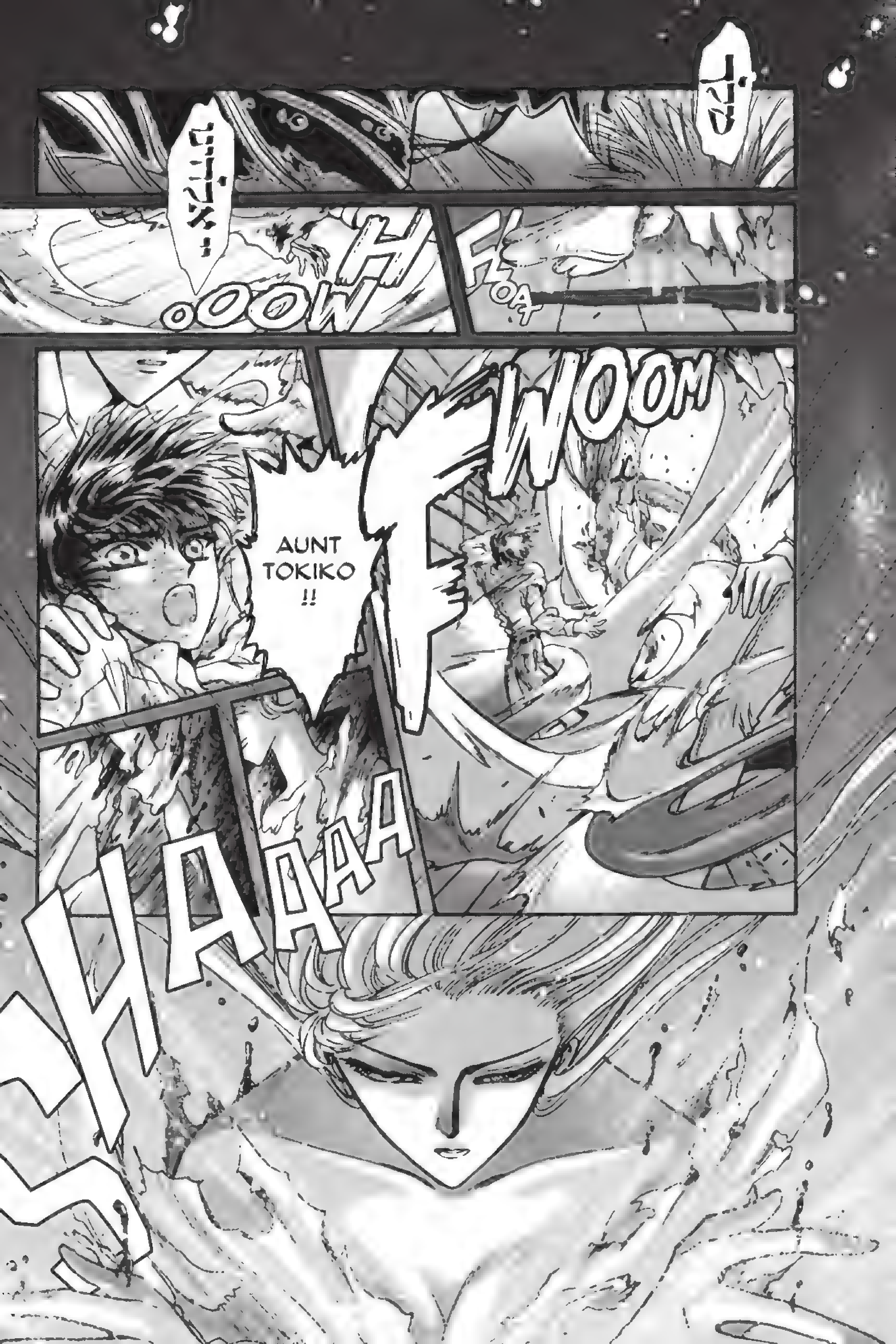

BUT THEN...
...THE PRIEST DIED.
SIX YEARS AGO...?
FROM A WOMAN'S BODY...
SIX YEARS AGO...
IT... CAN'T BE...
SIX YEARS AGO...
MY SISTER... TORU...
...WAS SUPPOSED TO DIE HERE.
AS THE HEIR TO THE MAGAMI CLAN...FOR THE EARTH'S FINAL BATTLE...
TORU WAS SUPPOSED TO DIE GIVING BIRTH TO THE SACRED SWORD... THAT WAS THE PROPHECY...

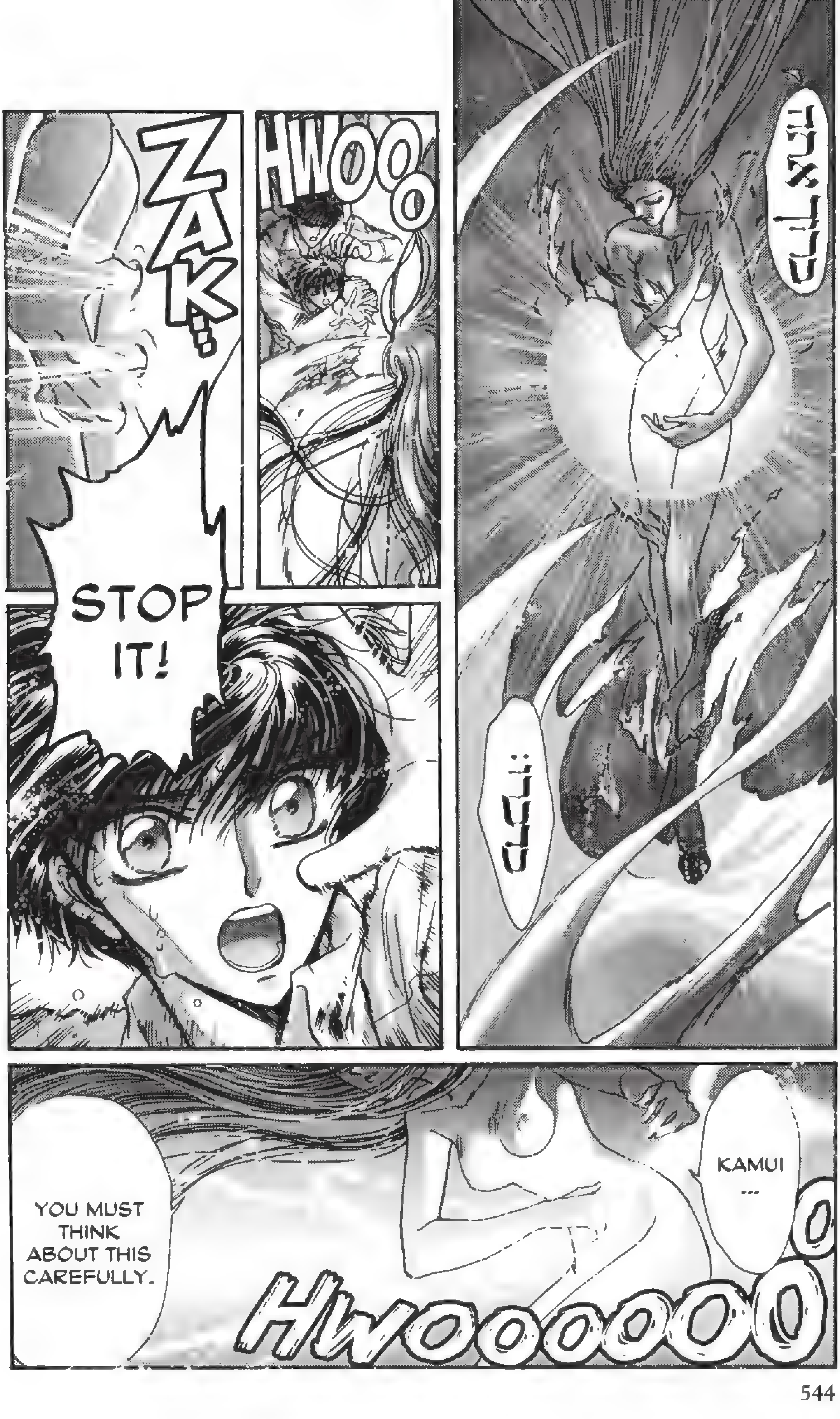

BUT INSTEAD ...
...THE ONE WHO DIED WAS...
MY MOTHER ...
MY SISTER'S BEST FRIEND ...
SAYA.
She died...
...for our sake...
She died for the Sacred Sword...

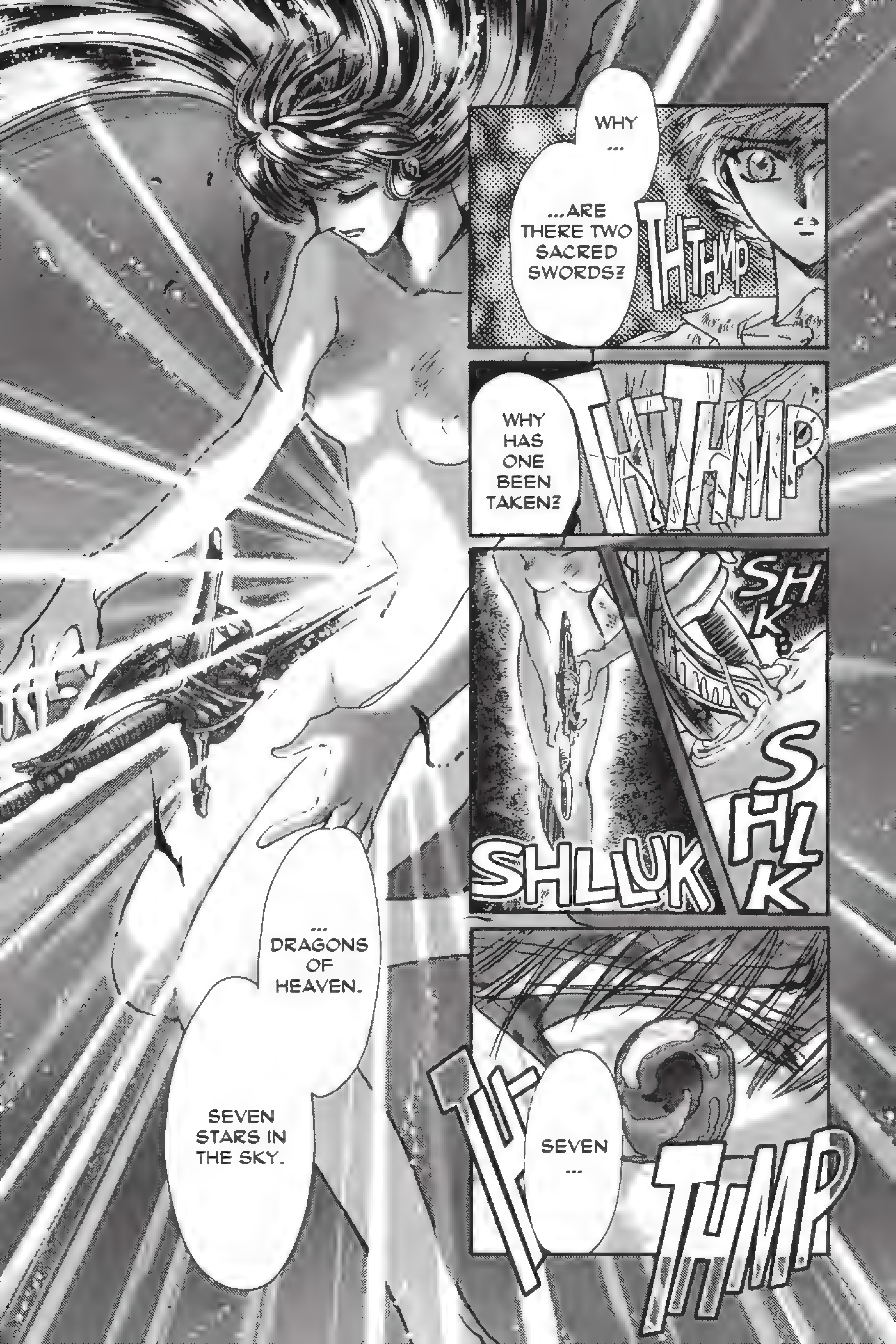

AUNT SAYA WAS KILLED...
BUT WHY...?
YOU WERE STILL SO YOUNG...
YOU COULDN'T SURVIVE BY YOURSELF...
YET...
...THE FIRST SACRED SWORD COULD BE BORN ON THAT DAY AND THAT DAY ONLY.
AND SO SAYA...
...GAVE BIRTH TO THE SWORD IN MY SISTER'S PLACE...
GAVE BIRTH...?
I CANNOT EXPLAIN. I CAN ONLY SHOW YOU...
KAMUI...

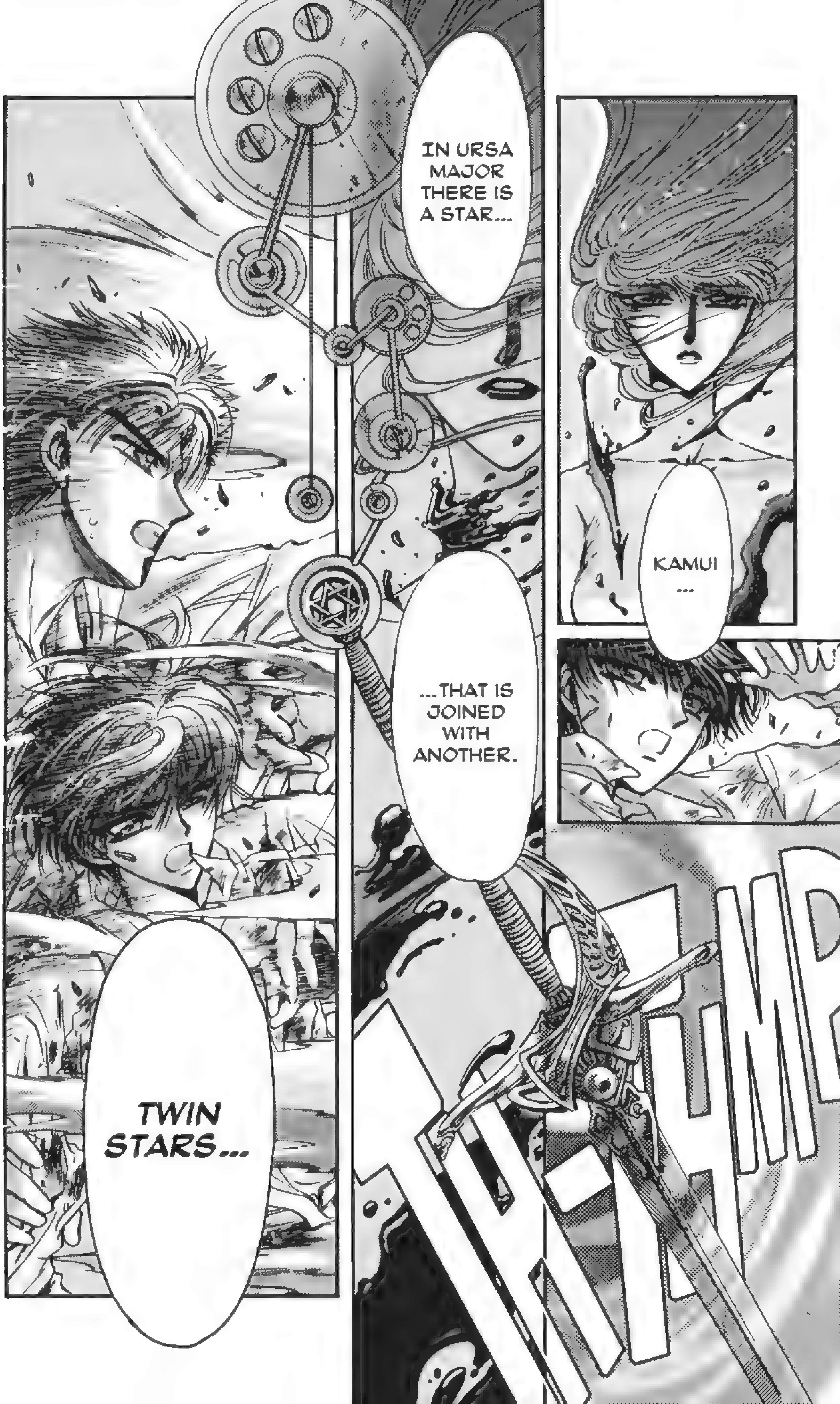

THE FIRST SACRED SWORD WAS BORN... SIX YEARS AGO.
AND NOW...
THE SECOND SACRED SWORD...
...THE LAST SACRED SWORD... WILL BE BORN...
THE LAST SACRED SWORD...?
THE SECOND...?
KOFF
AUNT TOKIKO!
SPLATT
THERE ARE STILL... SO MANY THINGS... I WANT TO TELL YOU...
STILL SO MANY THINGS... I HAVE TO...TELL YOU... KAMUI...
BUT IT'S TOO LATE...

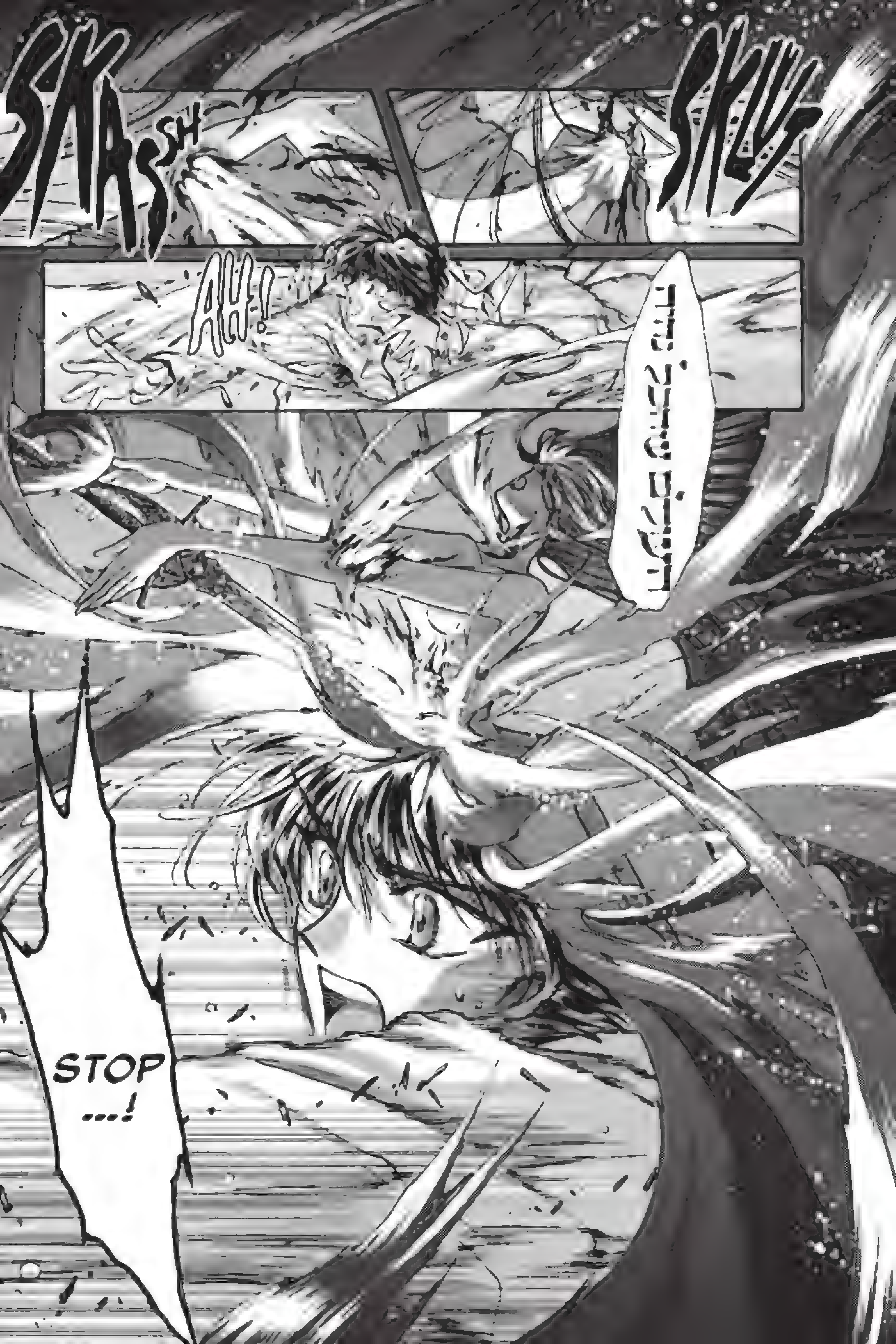

WHEN I TRIED TO RUN FROM IT...
...I PUSHED MYSELF TOO HARD.
WAVR...
I'M... ALREADY...
AUNT TOKIKO...
AUNT TOKIKO!
Ah...
KAMUI...
THE FATE OF JAPAN... NO...
THE FATE OF THE WORLD... IS IN YOUR HANDS...

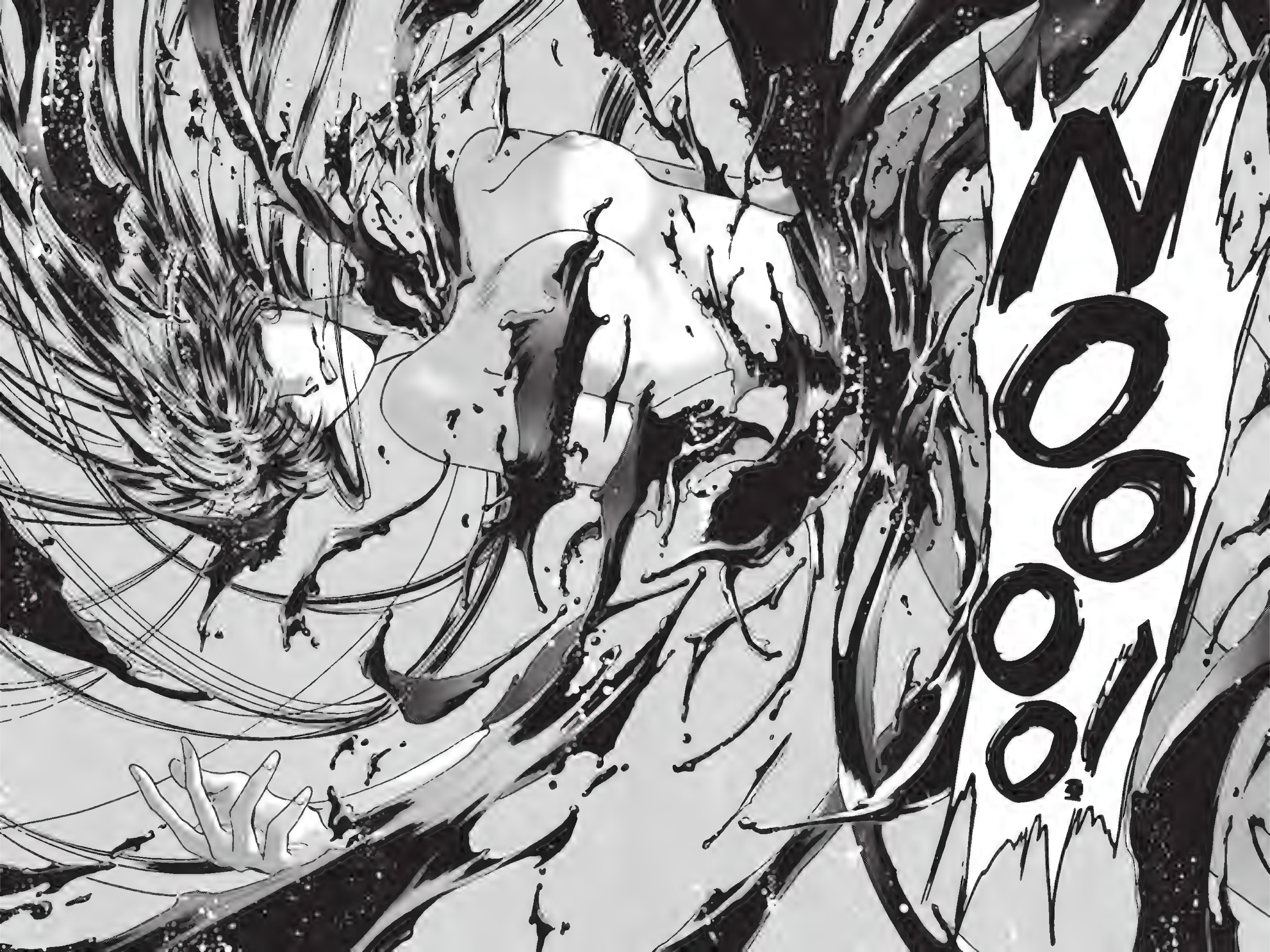

מלך
FLOAT
WHOOOO
יי אלהינו
FWOOM
AUNT TOKIKO !!
HAAAA

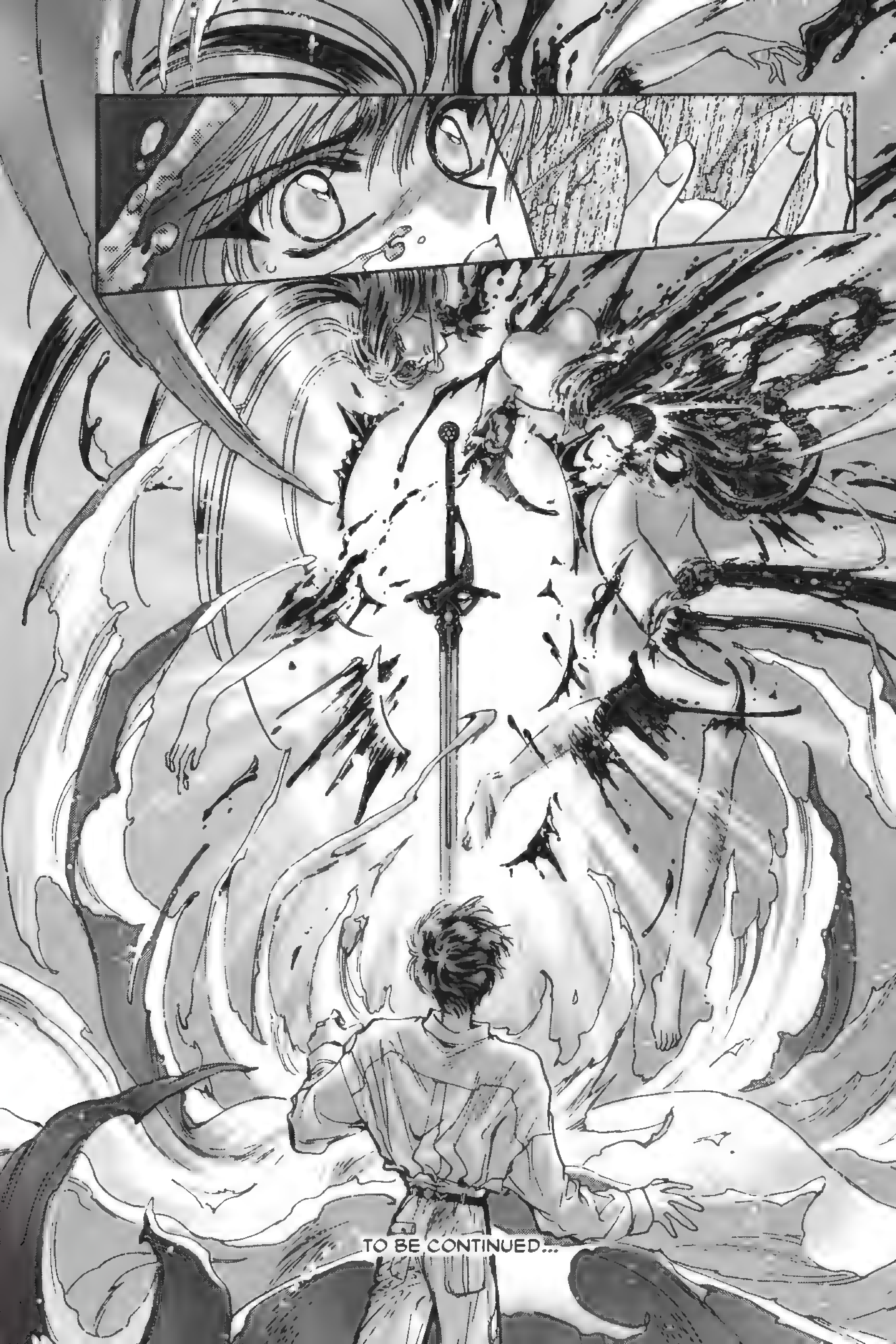

ברוך אתה
ברכו:
HWOOOO
ZAK...
STOP IT!
KAMUI ...
HWOOOOOOO
YOU MUST THINK ABOUT THIS CAREFULLY.


WHY ...
...ARE THERE TWO SACRED SWORDS?
THTHMP
WHY HAS ONE BEEN TAKEN?
THTHMP
SHK
SHLK
SHLLUK
SEVEN ...
THTHUMP
... DRAGONS OF HEAVEN.
SEVEN STARS IN THE SKY.


IN URSA MAJOR THERE IS A STAR...
KAMUI ...
...THAT IS JOINED WITH ANOTHER.
THHMP
TWIN STARS...

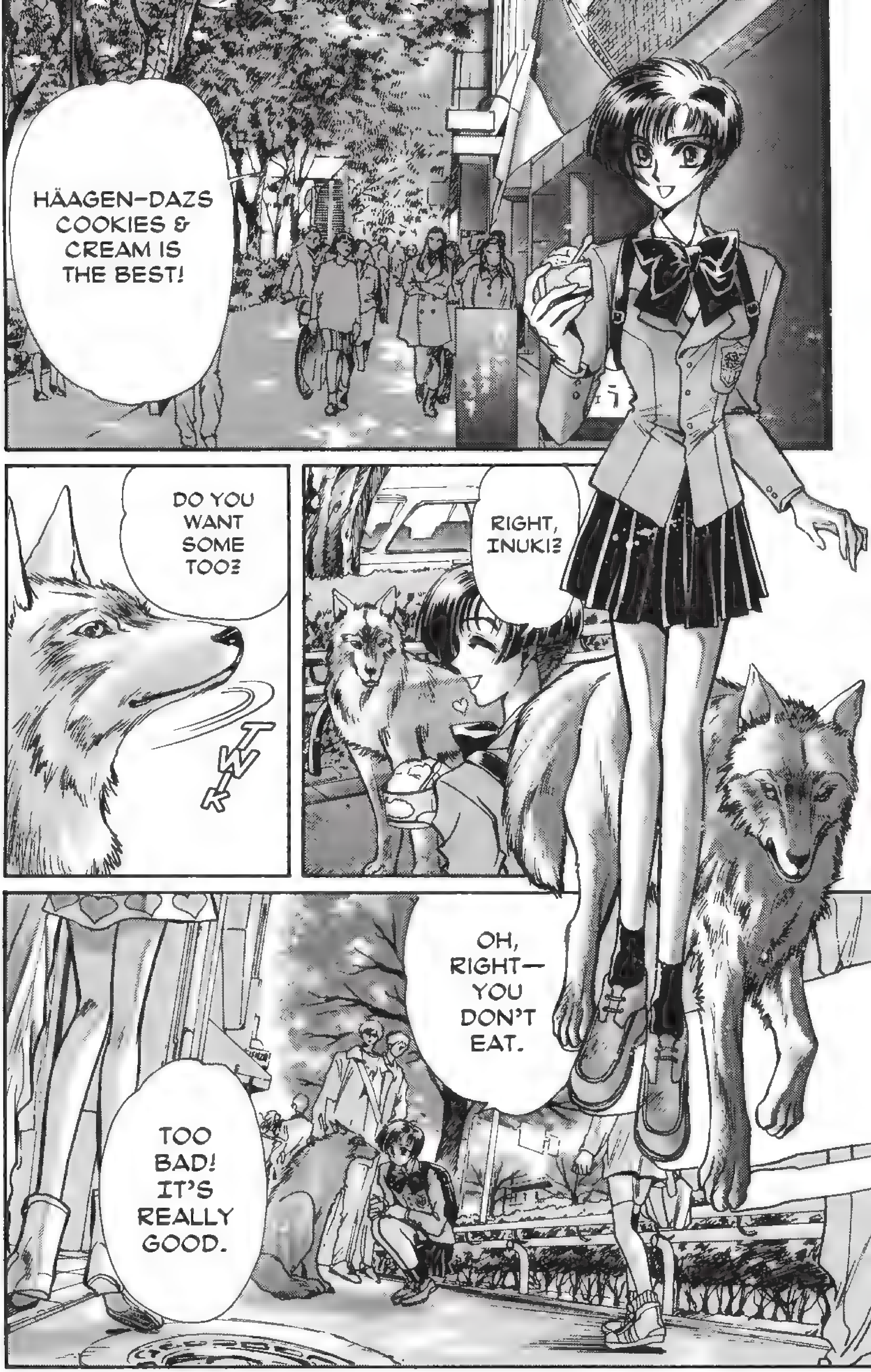

SPLUSH
SKASSH
AH!
העֹלם שהכֹל נהיה
STOP ...!

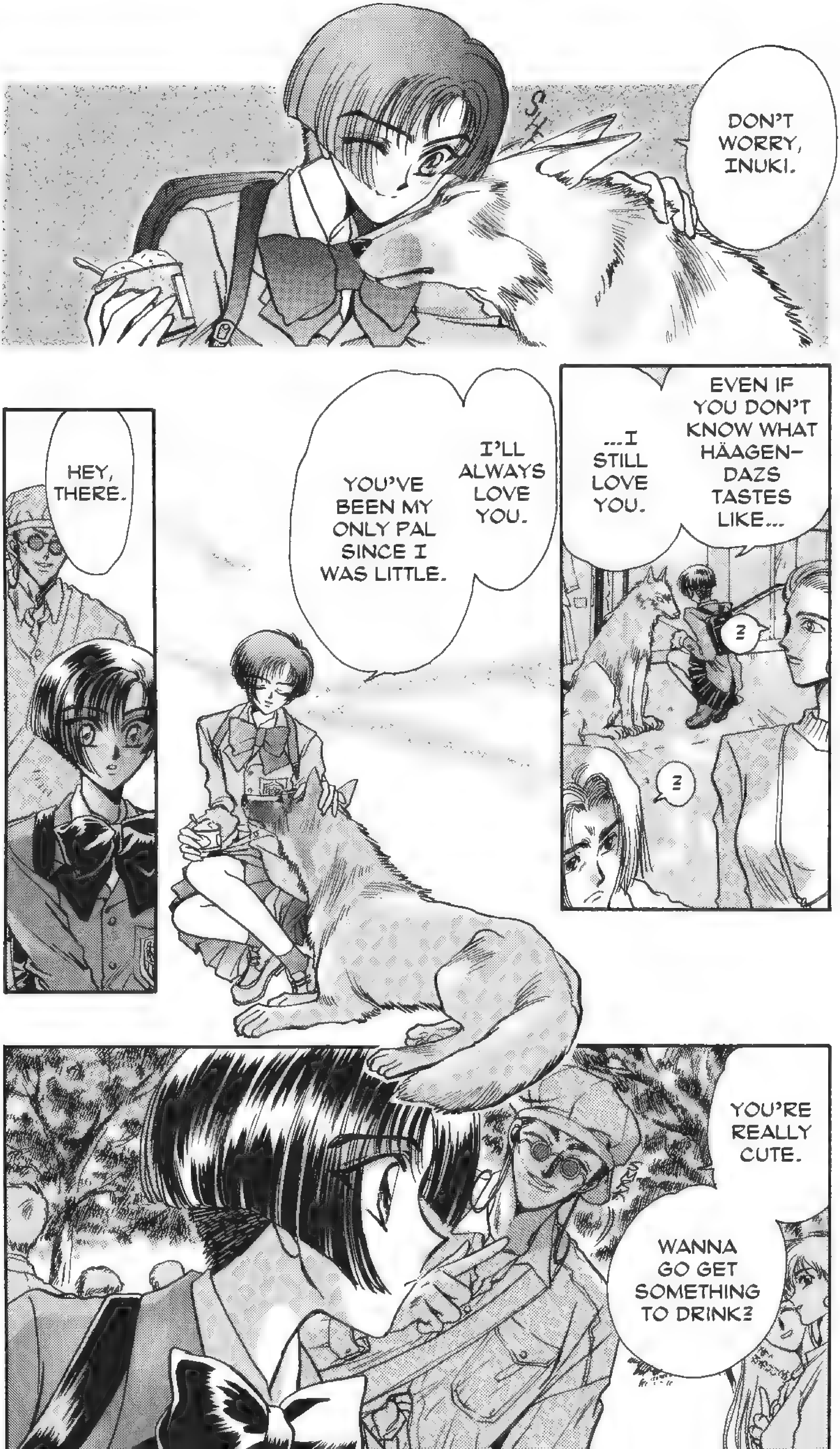

WOOOOO!

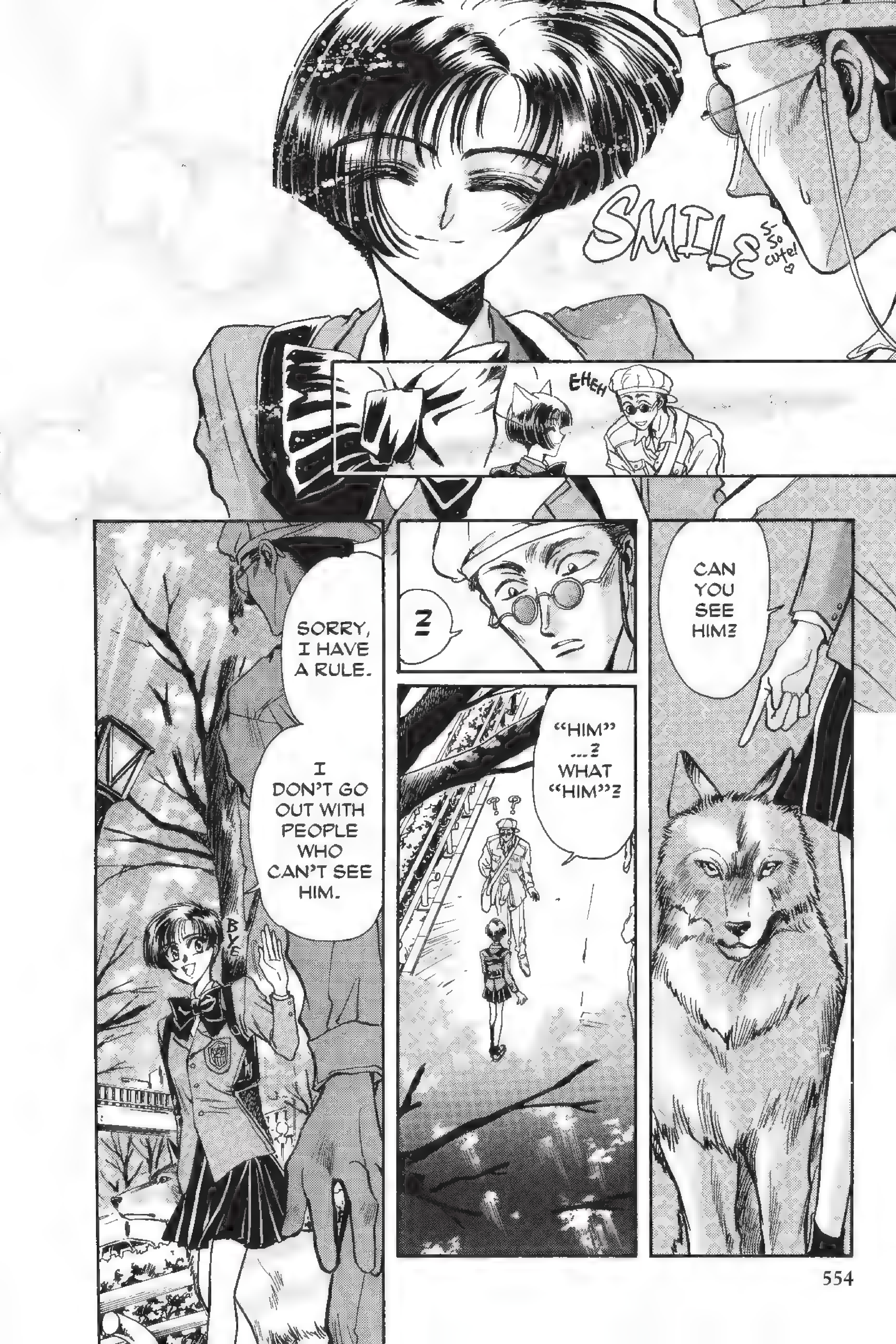

TO BE CONTINUED...

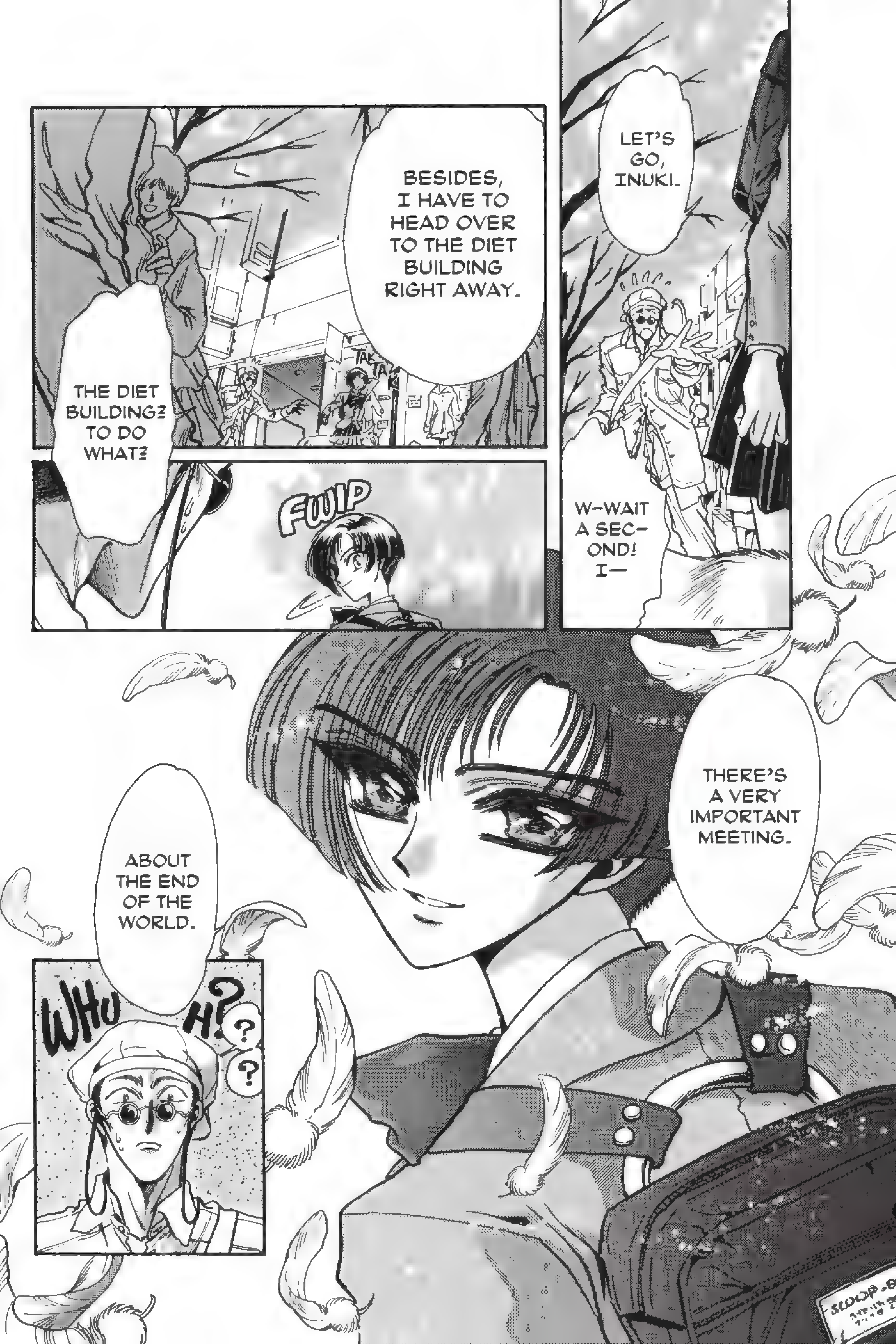
X

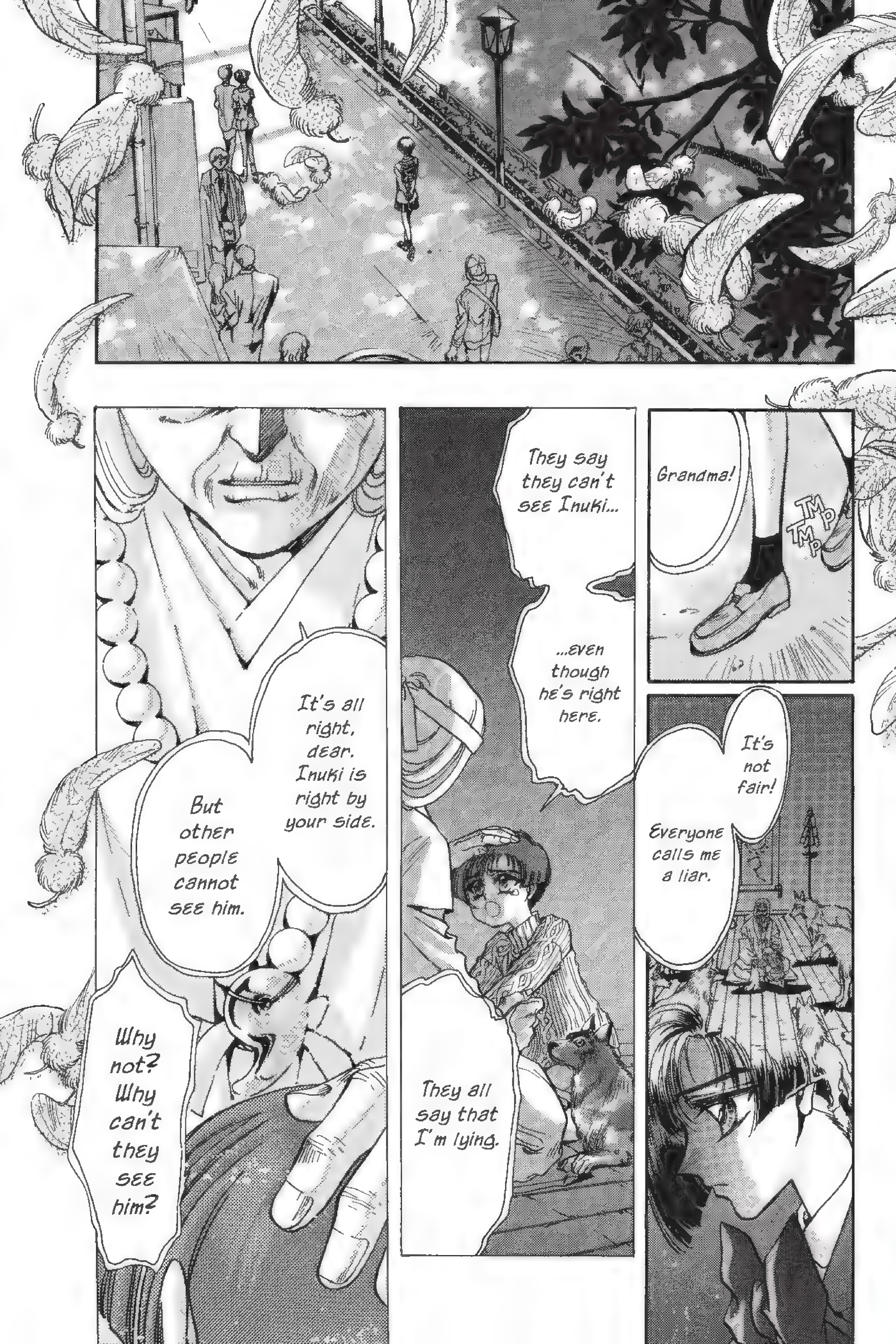
YUZURIHA NEKOI

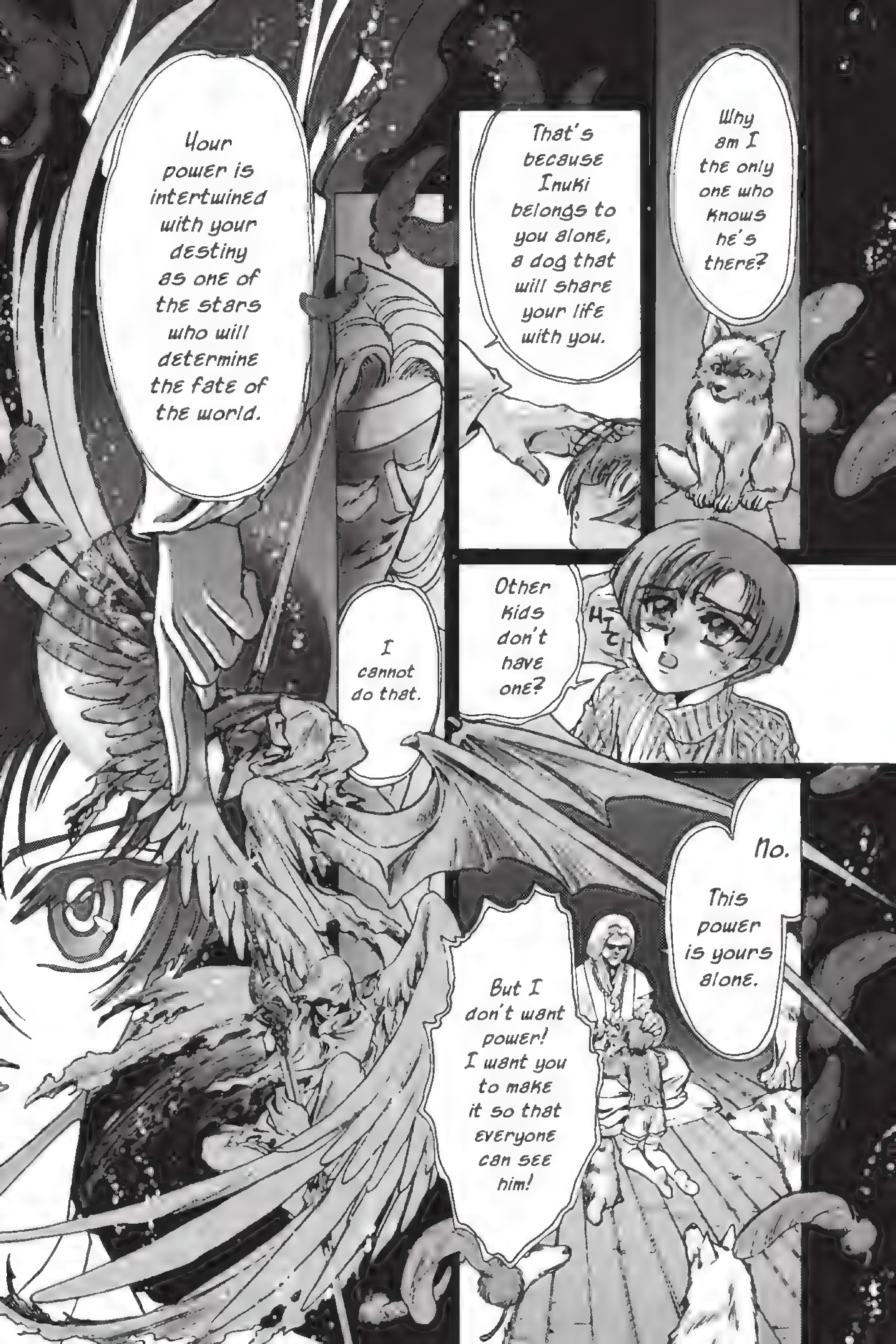

HÄAGEN-DAZS COOKIES & CREAM IS THE BEST!
RIGHT, INUKI?
DO YOU WANT SOME TOO?
TWK
OH, RIGHT— YOU DON'T EAT.
TOO BAD! IT'S REALLY GOOD.

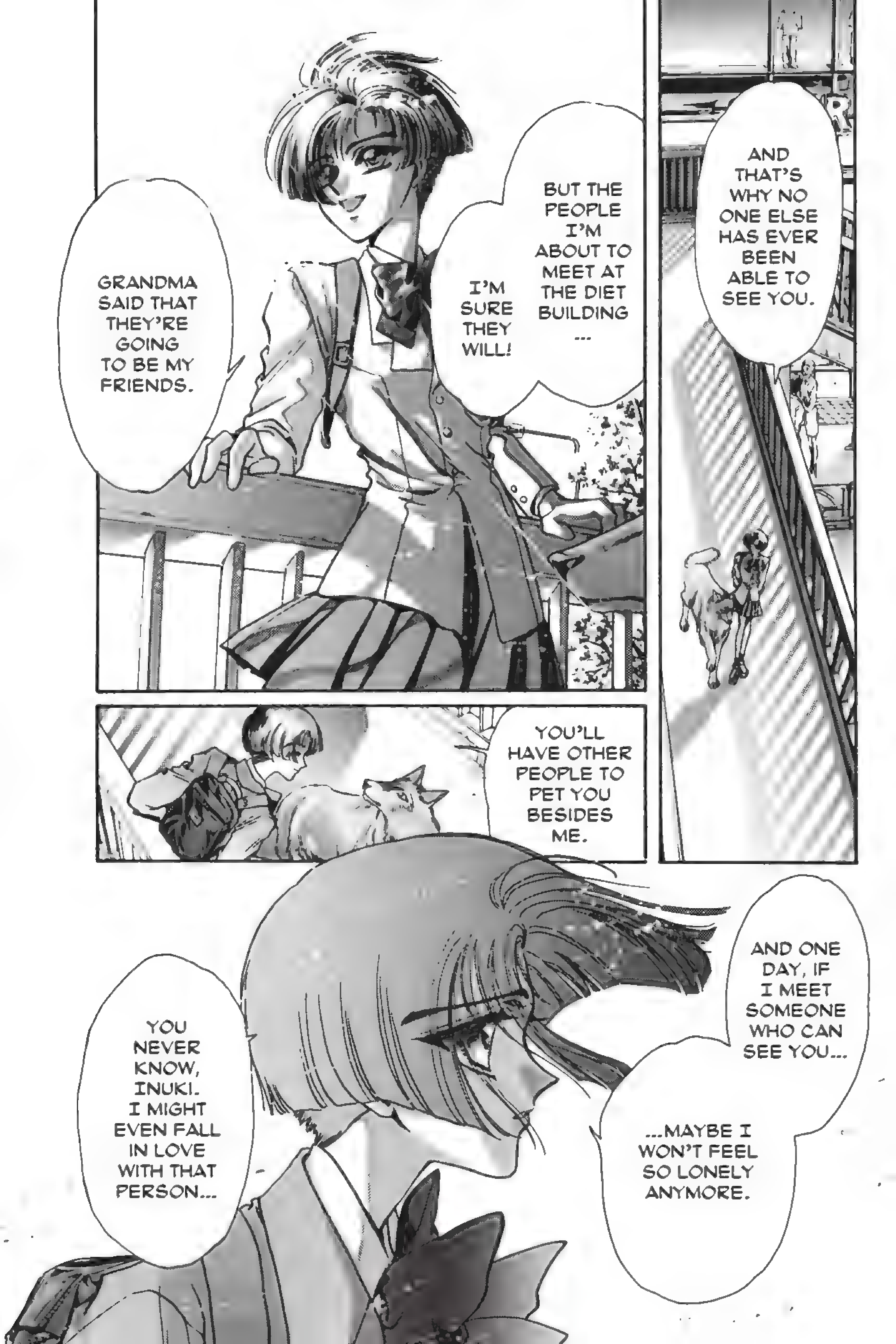

DON'T WORRY, INUKI.
EVEN IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HÄAGEN-DAZS TASTES LIKE...
...I STILL LOVE YOU.
?
?
I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU.
YOU'VE BEEN MY ONLY PAL SINCE I WAS LITTLE.
HEY, THERE.
YOU'RE REALLY CUTE.
WANNA GO GET SOMETHING TO DRINK?

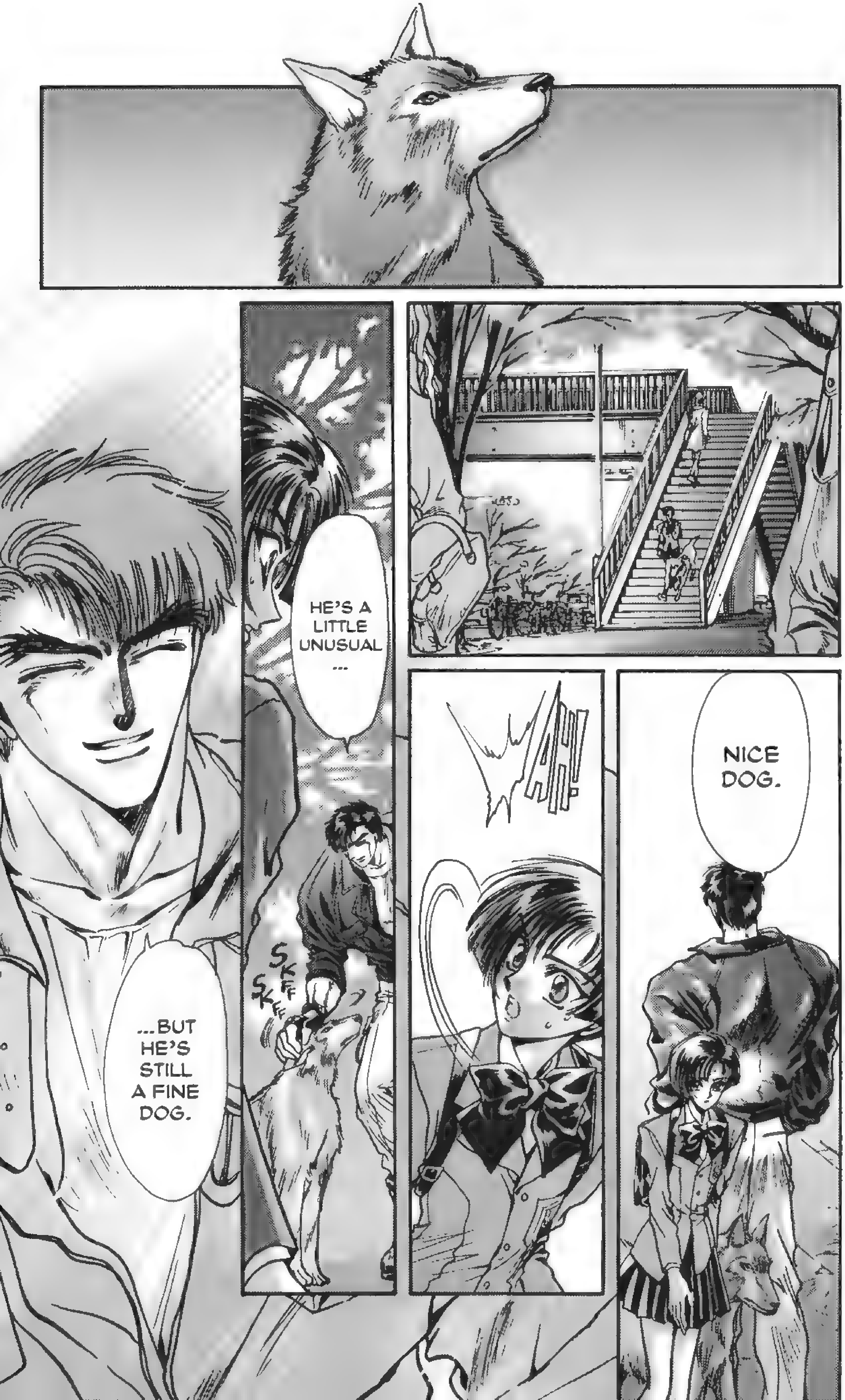

SMILE
S-So cute! ♡
EHEH
CAN YOU SEE HIM?
?
"HIM" ...? WHAT "HIM"?
? ?
SORRY, I HAVE A RULE.
I DON'T GO OUT WITH PEOPLE WHO CAN'T SEE HIM.
BYE

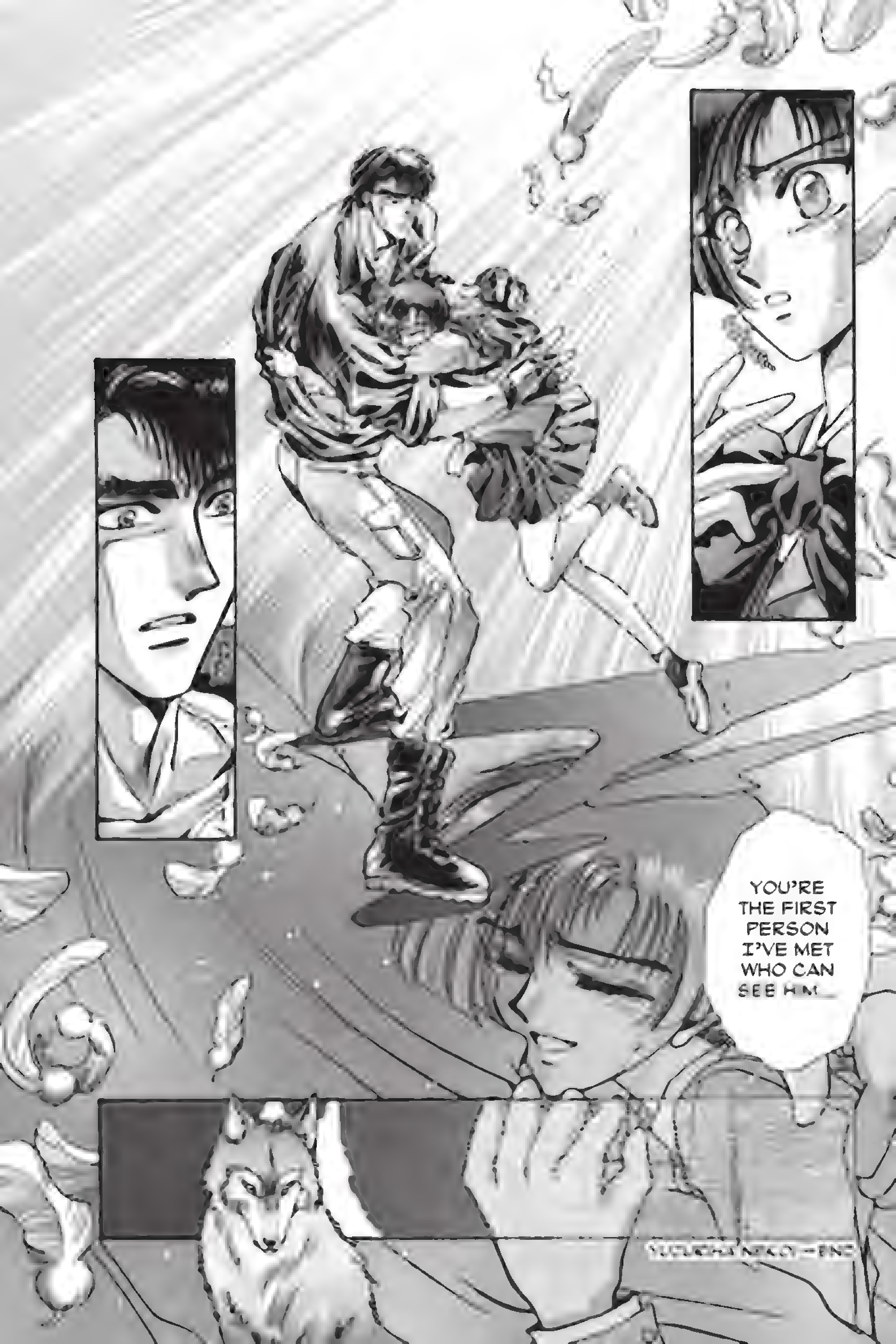

LET'S GO, INUKI.
W-WAIT A SECOND! I—
BESIDES, I HAVE TO HEAD OVER TO THE DIET BUILDING RIGHT AWAY.
TAK TAK
THE DIET BUILDING? TO DO WHAT?
FWIP
THERE'S A VERY IMPORTANT MEETING.
ABOUT THE END OF THE WORLD.
WHUH? ? ?
SCOOP


Grandma!
TMP TMP
It's not fair!
Everyone calls me a liar.
They say they can't see Inuki...
...even though he's right here.
They all say that I'm lying.
It's all right, dear. Inuki is right by your side.
But other people cannot see him.
Why not? Why can't they see him?


Why am I the only one who knows he's there?
That's because Inuki belongs to you alone, a dog that will share your life with you.
HIC
Other kids don't have one?
No. This power is yours alone.
But I don't want power! I want you to make it so that everyone can see him!
I cannot do that.
Your power is intertwined with your destiny as one of the stars who will determine the fate of the world.


AND THAT'S WHY NO ONE ELSE HAS EVER BEEN ABLE TO SEE YOU.
BUT THE PEOPLE I'M ABOUT TO MEET AT THE DIET BUILDING... I'M SURE THEY WILL!
GRANDMA SAID THAT THEY'RE GOING TO BE MY FRIENDS.
YOU'LL HAVE OTHER PEOPLE TO PET YOU BESIDES ME.
AND ONE DAY, IF I MEET SOMEONE WHO CAN SEE YOU...
...MAYBE I WON'T FEEL SO LONELY ANYMORE.
YOU NEVER KNOW, INUKI. I MIGHT EVEN FALL IN LOVE WITH THAT PERSON...


NICE DOG.
WAH!
HE'S A LITTLE UNUSUAL ...
SKFF SKFF
...BUT HE'S STILL A FINE DOG.

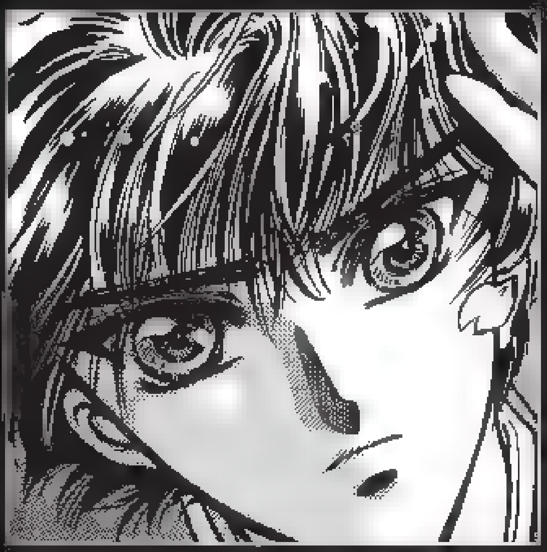

YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON I'VE MET WHO CAN SEE HIM...
YUUKIHA NIKKI —END

X

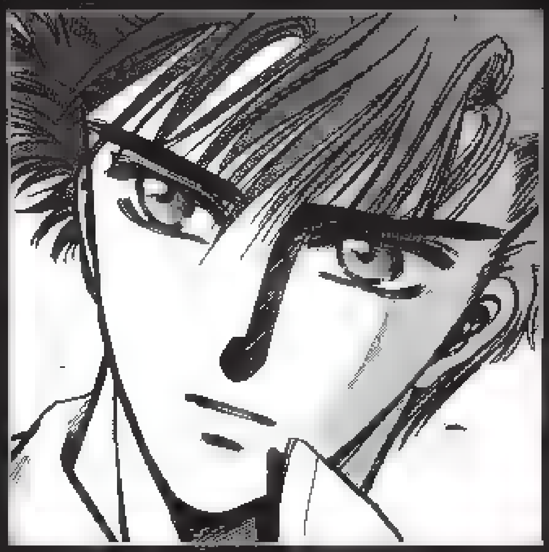
END VOLUME 2

X

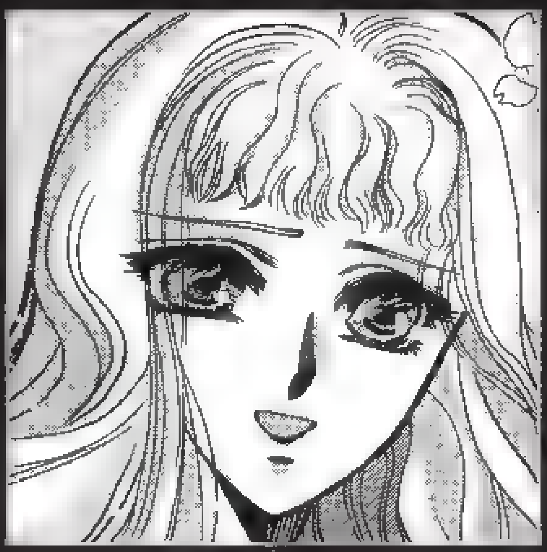
CAST OF CHARACTERS



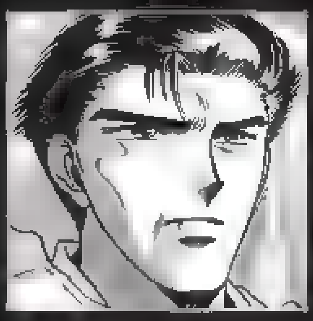
KAMUI SHIRO
A young man possessing tremendous arcane powers, he is at the center of a prophecy concerning the end of the world.



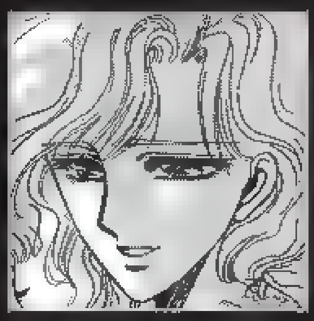
FUMA MONOU
Kamui's childhood friend and Kotori's brother, he's very protective of both of them. He too is somehow involved in the prophecy of the world's end.



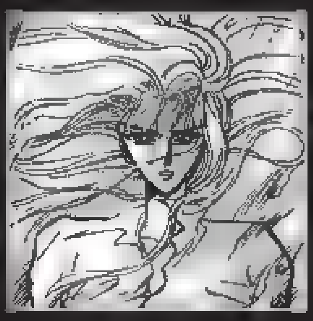
KOTORI MONOU
Fuma's little sister, and one of Kamui's closest friends when they were children. Her health is delicate due to a heart condition.



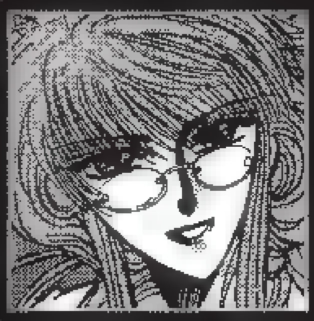
KYOGO MONOU
Fuma and Kotori's father, he was the priest of the Togakushi Shrine and guardian of the Sacred Sword.



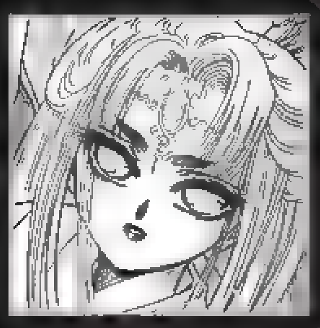
SAYA MONOU
Fuma and Kotori's mother. She gave up her life in order to bring the Sacred Sword into being.



TORU SHIRO
Kamui's mother. A descendant of an ancient family of "Shadow Sacrifices" who have the power to avert the misfortunes of others, she sacrificed herself to protect Kamui.

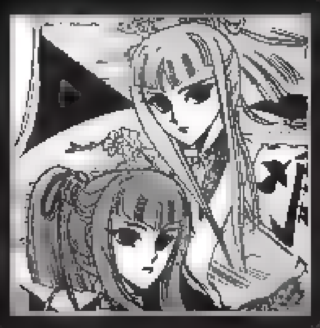


TOKIKO MAGAMI
Toru's younger sister and Kamui's last surviving blood relation, she works as a nurse at his school.



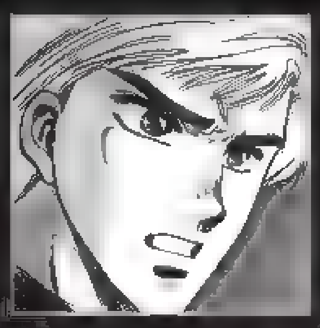
HINOTO

A blind seer who is able to read the future through dreams. She has foreseen the end of the world, and her vision places Kamui at the heart of the cataclysm to come.



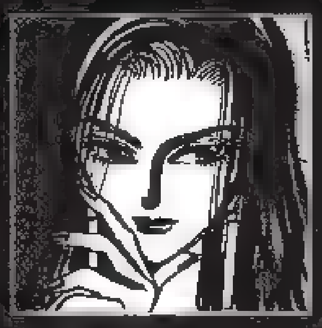
SOHI & HIEN

Hinoto's loyal attendants.



DAISUKE SAIKI

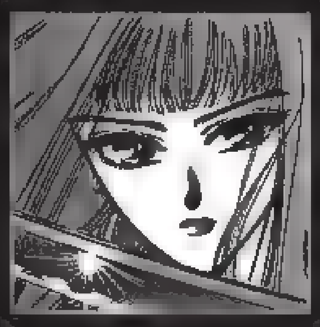
A young wind user devoted to Hinoto, he's initially suspicious of Kamui.



KANOE

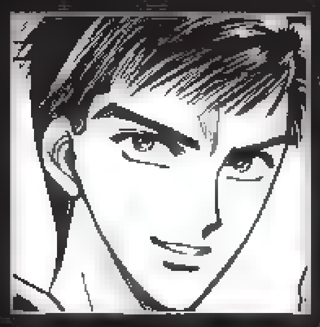
Hinoto's younger sister, she also possesses the ability to see the future through dreams. But the destiny that she wishes to bring about is different from the one that Hinoto desires.

THE SEVEN SEALS



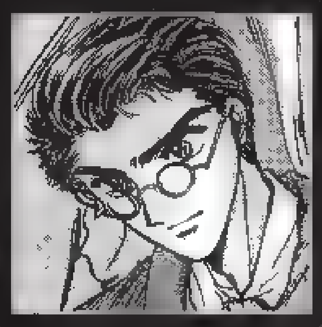
ARASHI KISHU

Raised in the Shinto shrine of Ise, she fights by summoning a sword from the palm of her hand.



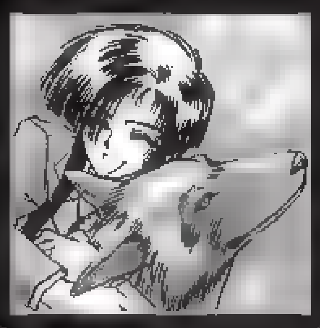
SORATA ARISUGAWA

A priest from the Mount Koya Buddhist temple complex, he has sworn to protect Kamui with his life.



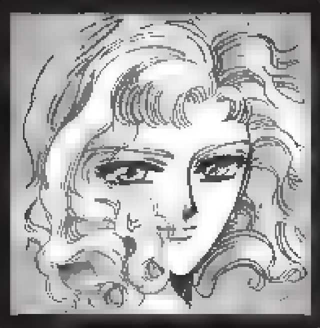
SEIICHIRO AOKI

A harried manga editor with a gentle demeanor, he is also a wind master and a skilled fighter.



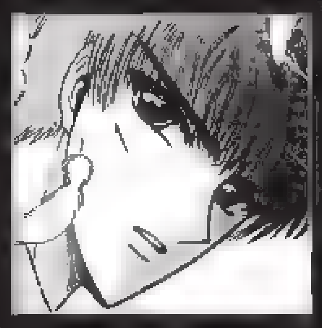
YUZURIHA NEKOI

The youngest of the Seals, she is always accompanied by her dog spirit, Inuki, that only she and others with psychic powers can see.



KAREN KASUMI

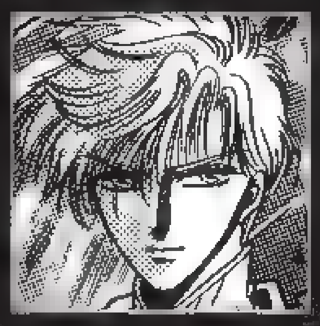
A fire user who works in a soapland (massage parlor), she endured a traumatic childhood because of her powers.



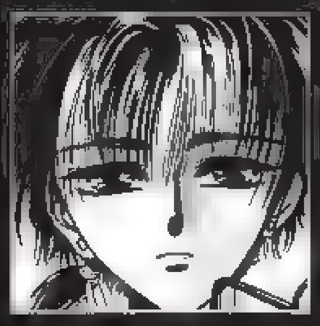
SUBARU SUMERAGI

The 13th generation leader of the Sumeragi Clan, the most powerful users of *onmyo* magic, he shares a deep bond with Seishiro Sakurazaka.

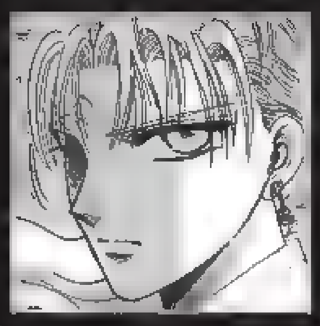
THE SEVEN ANGELS



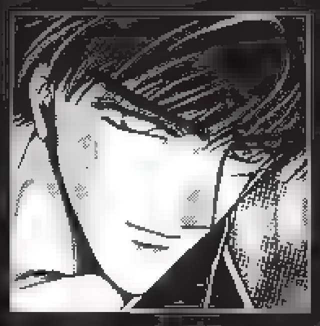
YUTO KIGAI
Working as a civil servant by day, he is a water master whose playful demeanor hides a cold-blooded essence.



SATSUKI YATOJI
A genius with computers, she shares a special bond with the machine she built, the "Beast."



NATAKU
A genetically engineered human androgyne, Nataku wields a ribbon-like length of cloth as a weapon.



SEISHIRO SAKURAZUKA
A skilled *onmyoji*, he is the Guardian of the Cherry Blossom Barrow, last in a line of hereditary assassins. His fate is intertwined with Subaru Sumeragi's.

NOTES ON THE TEXT

KEKKAI

A magical barrier or shield. In the world of X there are two different types of kekkai. The first is the individual barrier fields that the Seven Seals create in order to protect their surroundings from damage during a battle. The second is a huge magical ward that protects the entire city of Tokyo.

ONMYODO, ONMYOJI

Onmyodo, or the "way of onmyo," is a school of magical practice based on the esoteric philosophies of Yin-Yang and the Five Elements (fire, earth, metal, water and wood). *Onmyoji*, or "masters of onmyo," are adepts who can use their magic to perform rites such as exorcism, purification, and divination.

SEVEN LUMINARIES

This phrase refers to both the seven days of the week and to the seven heavenly bodies of classical astronomy: the sun, moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn.

SHIKI

Commonly called *shikigami*—but shortened to *shiki* in X—these are spirits or minor deities summoned to serve *onmyoji*. Shiki can be conjured in different ways, but the most frequently depicted method is to bind them to a paper talisman infused with spells.

SHINGON BUDDHISM

One of the major historical sects in Japan, it is considered to be one of the more mystical branches of Buddhism. It places a greater emphasis on religious experience over doctrine, and a significant aspect of its practice is the transmission of esoteric teachings. For these reasons, it is also referred to as "Esoteric Buddhism."

ILLUSTRATION COMMENTS

PAGE 6

1996 *Monthly Asuka* August Issue, Title Page Illustration
Paper: Watson Paper
Lines: Winsor & Newton Drawing Ink (Nut Brown), PIGMA Graphic ink pen
Color: Acrylic Gouache, Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink, Lumocolor ink pen

The ink I used to draw the main outlines blurs a bit when it's mixed with water, so the whole illustration has a yellowish tint to it. I wanted the uniforms to look dimensional and not just pitch-black, so I used Lumocolor for them. [Ed. Note: Watson is a brand of Japanese paper good for watercolor use.]

PAGE 7

1993 June, *X* Volume 4, Cover Illustration
Paper: BB Kent
Lines: PIGMA Graphic ink pen
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink, poster color

The concept color for this illustration was gray, but his *hakama* would look very drab if I'd colored them gray too, so I made them light blue instead [*laughs*].

PAGE 194–195

2002 *X* TV Anime Volume 5 DVD Box Illustration

For the illustrations used on the anime DVD boxes, I had decided from the beginning to make the backgrounds black and to incorporate a round element, which in this case was a window. Both Sorata and Arashi are very "Japanese" characters, so I drew them with that idea in mind. But I still put them in their school uniforms... [*laughs*]. Sorata wears his uniform only once during the entire series, and that was in a flashback scene. When you see them together like this, it seems like they're from a different story. The background is colored with poster color and acrylic gouache.

PAGE 196

1996 *X* Anime Movie Advertisement Illustration
Paper: BB Kent
Lines: PIGMA Graphic ink pen
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink, Liquitex

Since this illustration was for the movie, I wanted to give it a heavy atmosphere, so I used Liquitex. But it took such a long time to dry that I ended up having to pull an all-nighter to make the deadline [*laughs*].

PAGE 1

1995 *Monthly Asuka* March Issue, Announcement Illustration
Paper: Manuscript paper
Lines: Color pencil
Color: Colortone, whiteout, Copic marker

I literally just penciled this on regular manuscript paper used for monochrome illustrations [*laughs*]. I've used Colortone before, but I hardly ever use it in X.
[Ed. Note: Colortone is a type of colored screentone; it's also sometimes called "overlay."]

PAGE 2

2002 *X* Calendar Illustration

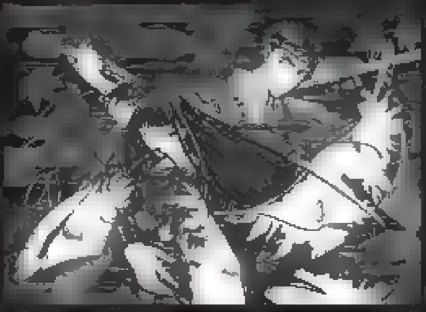
This was a uniquely long, vertical format, so I had a hard time devising the composition of the illustration. Now that I look at it, the specks of light make it look like a Magical Girl transformation scene [*laughs*]. Although this was a large illustration, I screwed up my courage and colored the background using only Copic markers [*laughs*]. The uniform was inked in with Lumocolor pens, but I used Liquitex afterwards for some parts of the piping. The wing was drawn with an airbrush, and the Earth with acrylic gouache.

PAGE 3

2002 *Monthly Asuka* April Extra Issue, *X* Comic Collection 04 Illustration

Ohkawa commented that there hadn't been any illustrations of Kamui being sad, so she asked me to make him cry. I drew an illustration for the cover of the X Comic Collection 03 of Kotori wearing a blue headdress. So he's holding that as if it's a memento. I used Liquitex to draw the beads. The other areas are done with Copic markers. I put down a layer of gray ground coat before doing the actual illustration.

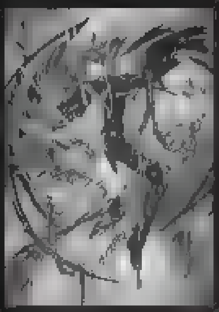
PAGE 4–5



1998 *Monthly Asuka* November Issue, Title Page Illustration
Paper: BB Kent
Lines: PIGMA Graphic ink pen
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink, Lumocolor ink pen, poster color, Copic marker

This is a fake Warring States Period illustration [*laughs*]. I drew something with a similar theme before, but I think this one looks more Warring States-like. Even though I've totally ignored the authenticity of the time period [*laughs*].
[Ed. Note: Poster color is also known as "poster paint" or "tempera paint."]

PAGE 379



2003 *X* Calendar Illustration

This was for a desk calendar, so it wasn't a huge project, but I still did draw in a lot of detail. Fortunately, not many colors were used, so it didn't take too much time. I spent the most time working on the dragon. Until this illustration, I had been drawing Asian dragons, but this dragon has a slightly Western touch. Its scales are very shiny [*laughs*].

PAGE 380

2002 *X* TV Anime Advertisement Poster

Fuma's head looks a little big here [*laughs*]. I made this when I was working on *Chobits*, so I had a "drawing habit" of doing things in that style. The background was colored with acrylic gouache. I wanted an ashy hue to create a tranquil, not too heavy-looking sky. The other parts were done with a Copic marker. The piping on the uniforms was too small to draw, so I added them afterwards with Liquitex.

PAGE 381

2002 *X: The Choice of Fate* PlayStation Game Package Illustration

I remember working really hard on the Tokyo Tower for some reason. The Tower and capes were done with acrylic gouache. Since this was an illustration for a video game, I wanted to give it a battle-like, action-y feel; it's just right for an all-out fighting game! I erased the outlines of the background to make it look like it was drawn with a computer, but it actually took a lot of time and effort.

PAGE 382

1996 *Monthly Asuka* August Issue, Title Page Illustration
Paper: BB Kent
Lines: Dr. Ph. Martin's Sepia Ink, PIGMA Graphic ink pen
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink

The illustration seems slightly yellowish since I did the outline using Dr. Ph. Martin's Sepia Ink and then blurred it with water afterwards. The shattering glass over the image gives it an ominous feel.

PAGE 383

1994 December, *X* Volume 6, Cover Illustration
Paper: BB Kent
Lines: PIGMA Graphic ink pen
Color: Acrylic gouache, Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink

I shaded the illustration with pink as a base color, and then inked in the different areas. Since Kotori's the subject, I wanted to make it look cute, so the concept color is pink and it's got lots of flowers [*laughs*].

PAGE 197

1996 *X* Anime Movie Flyer Illustration

The scene and color palette for this illustration were created to suit the movie, since the image was going to be used on the flyer. I think I used Watson Paper for it and colored it mostly with ink, but I used an airbrush for the Earth. I placed a thin ground coat of brown on the paper first and colored the characters after that. It's exactly the same drawing technique as I used on the posters.

PAGE 198

1999 *Monthly Asuka* May Issue, Title Page Illustration

Another illustration of Karen looking very neat and tidy. I put her in a delicate lace dress, which is a refreshing change since she's usually drawn with a bondage look. The background resembles a holy shrine of some sort. I purposely drew water in the illustration since she has the power to control fire. Originally there wasn't any lace over her cleavage, but I added it on later at Ohkawa's request.

PAGE 199

1993 November, *X* Volume 5, Cover Illustration
Paper: BB Kent
Lines: PIGMA Graphic ink pen
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink

The building in the background is the offices of Kadokawa Shoten Publishing Co., Ltd. Are the papers that are falling out of the sky just random documents? Or final drafts of manga? It'd be terrible if they were final drafts [*laughs*].

PAGE 378

2001 *Monthly Newtype* November Issue, Cover Illustration

Newtype has a very large cover area, so it's fun to draw illustrations for it [*laughs*]. I wanted the blackness of the uniform to have a heavy look to it, more of a "woolly" texture, so I used a Lumocolor pen instead of a Copic marker. If I had used a black Copic, the color would have been much lighter. They don't make that particular hue of Lumocolor anymore, unfortunately. The other parts of the uniform were drawn using Dr. Ph. Martin's, the cloth with Copic markers, and the earth using acrylic gouache.

PLANNING AND PRESENTATION BY **CLAMP**

STORY AND SCRIPT	NANASE OHKAWA (CLAMP)
COMIC	MOKONA APAPA (CLAMP)
ART DIRECTION	MICK NEKOI (CLAMP)
ART ASSISTANCE	SATSUKI IGARASHI (CLAMP)
COVER ILLUSTRATION	MOKONA APAPA (CLAMP)
BOOK DESIGN	NANASE OHKAWA (CLAMP)
SPECIAL THANKS	SEIICHIRO AOKI KEIICHI SEGAWA SACHIKO HIGUCHI TARO OSHIMA TADAMICHI ABE MASAHIRO KIBA
VERY SPECIAL THANKS	ALL OUR READERS

X

THEIR DESTINY WAS FOREORDAINED

X

STORY AND ART BY **CLAMP**

3-IN-1 EDITION
VOL. 2
VIZ Media Edition

TRANSLATION	**LILLIAN OLSEN**
TOUCH-UP ART & LETTERING	**ANNALIESE CHRISTMAN**
DESIGN	**FAWN LAU**
EDITOR	**LEYLA AKER**

X Volume 2 © CLAMP 1993, 1994
First published in Japan in 1993–1994 by KADOKAWA SHOTEN Co., Ltd., Tokyo. English translation rights arranged with KADOKAWA SHOTEN Co., Ltd., Tokyo.

The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

Printed in China

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, April 2012

VIZ media
www.viz.com

RATED T+ FOR OLDER TEEN

PARENTAL ADVISORY
X is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains violence and adult situations.
ratings.viz.com